



Tuition to increase by 7.2 percent

Officials say healthcare, oil and security costs are responsible

By SAMMY ROSE SALTZMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Undergraduate tuition will rise by 7.2 percent to \$33,900 next year, marking the largest rate increase in almost 20 years.

The rate of increase is more than double the current national inflation rate of 3.39 percent. While this has been a trend for the past several years, the rate is significantly higher than the 4.9 percent increases the University has implemented in past years.

According to administrators, the operation costs of recent security improvements, healthcare for University employees and energy costs on the Homewood Campus are responsible for the sharp increase. Room and board costs are also expected to rise as a result of increased energy and security costs.

"This is not a security increase. If you look at our largest unexpected costs that we have had to absorb this year you could certainly point to security and utilities," Adam Falk, dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences said.

Jerome Schnydmann, executive assistant to the president, echoed Falk. "There are some extraordinary expenses that have to be paid. One example is security. We're talking about \$2 million. That's a nice piece of change that we [have to] come up with."

He added, "If this increase was way out of wack with what schools

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BRENDAN SCHREIBER/NEWS-LETTER

The razing of residential properties in East Baltimore began Monday after having been delayed for two years due to concerns that the demolition would release toxins into the air.

Construction begins on Biotech Park

By PATRICE HUTTON
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Demolition of residential properties for Phase I of East Baltimore's urban redevelopment project began Monday, delayed after residents' health concerns prompted adoption of a revised demolition protocol.

The razing of over 800 resi-

dential properties for the development of the biotechnical park project immediately north of the JHMI campus — of which Hopkins will use laboratory space — was halted nearly two years ago due to concerns that the demolition might emit lead and other contaminants into the air.

"We stopped because there was community concern about

ways demolition was done," said Jack Shannon, president of East Baltimore Development, Inc. (EBDI).

Marisela Gomez, executive director of the Save Middle East Action Coalition (SMEAC), an advocacy group for residents of East Baltimore facing relocation, reported that, for a while, EBDI, Hopkins and the Annie E. Casey

Foundation (an organization that, in conjunction with Hopkins, is supplementing the compensation provided to residents forced to relocate) were unwilling to consider changing the demolition protocol.

"If we hadn't held it up, they probably would have demolished all the houses in the area

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University appoints Falk as dean of KSAS

By ERICA MITRANO
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Following an eight-month, nationwide search, Adam F. Falk has been appointed the James B. Knapp Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, effective Feb. 1.

Falk served as interim dean of the Krieger school for eight months. Previously, Falk served as dean of faculty and as a physics professor.

Discussing the appointment, President William Brody said, "Adam [Falk] was the number one choice of most everybody. He's smart, he's been interim dean for eight months, he has a commitment to undergraduate education, he won't lose momentum. ... He has a nice,

engaging personality and he understands the importance of academic excellence as well as building community."

Jerome Schnydmann, executive assistant to President Brody, said of Falk, "He was the best candidate. My understanding is that he had the skills prerequisite to work with the faculty, the students and the alumni."

"I was of course in a unique position," Falk said, referring to his experience as interim dean. "The school is on a very good trajectory. ... The search was in part a referendum on whether the school is moving in the right direction."

Of his time as interim dean, Falk said, "The greatest challenge was the tragic murders."

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MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

At Tuesday's meeting Atin Argawal, president of Student Council, discussed the dispute regarding COLA's appointment of the 2006 MSE chairs.

Selection of MSE chairs causes controversy

By CHRISTINE HIGGINS
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

At the end of 2005 the Student Council Committee on Leadership Appointments (COLA) appointed Arash Massoudi, Steve Farber and Leslie Shoeck to the Milton S. Eisenhower (MSE) Symposium Co-chairs for the fall of 2006.

As has been the trend in the past several years, controversy surrounded the final decision. Citing a lack of fair opportunity, one of the losing teams filed an appeal of the choice, which has since been dropped by StuCo. The team has not yet been notified of this.

Prior to the decision, there was contention over the eligibility of Neil Shenai, COLA's junior representative, to participate in the nomination process. It was alleged that Shenai was

offering assistance to other candidates.

"The team who won accused me of conspiring with another team and writing their proposal," Shenai said, "but that and the extent of the controversy was falsified. I was asked to recuse myself, but I didn't feel compelled to because the accusation wasn't a sound one."

The decision to allow Shenai to remain on the committee during the nomination process was left to COLA's chair, sophomore Jake Koenig.

"The situation was very difficult. Neil did have a prospective of a very friendly relationship with one group but gave me his word that he would be fair," Koenig said. "And [he] did not vote for the group that [included] his friends."

In the end, Shenai did not participate in the final vote. He

excused himself due to the "excessive allegations against my personal character, integrity, and loyalties," Shenai said. "Additionally, one of the COLA members [freshman Kate Garvin] was absent for all the interviews, yet she had a final vote, which is absurd, appalling, and a bad sign of the legitimacy of Student Council as a whole."

"Even though Kate was sick she read the proposal and could hear about the interviews from three separate sources," senior and StuCo Rob Huang said. "The situation wasn't the best, but it was handled as well as it could have."

"I thought the selection process was pretty ridiculous," Garvin said. "It was contrived, over-hyped and over-emphasized. Yes, personal biases are always a problem but as soon

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Anonymous donor gives millions for Gilman Hall

By SAL GENTILE
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

An anonymous donor will commit \$100 million to the Johns Hopkins "Knowledge for the World Campaign," according to an announcement made by University officials today.

The donation, the fourth monetary commitment in the history of the University of at least \$100 million, will be directed toward a list of specific projects, including the ongoing effort to renovate and modernize Gilman Hall.

According to Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs Dennis O'Shea, the money is being directed as per the donor's stipulations, which also include the construction of a new children's tower at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, support for the School of Medicine's Institute for Cell Engineering and an array of initiatives at the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"This donor has a very strong appreciation for what some of the critical needs at Johns Hopkins are," said O'Shea.

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COURTESY HTTP://WWW.NIH.GOV
National Institutes of Health Director Elias Zerhouni will be speaking at commencement.

Senior class announces graduation speaker

By MITRA HESHMATI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Despite some difficulty securing a speaker, the senior class has announced that Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and former chair of the radiology department and executive vice-dean of The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, will deliver the graduation speech at the Undergraduate Diploma Ceremony this spring.

In the past two years the University has hosted comedian Bill Cosby and former vice president Al Gore as graduation speakers. This senior class began the year hoping for an equally noteworthy figure.

Senior Renee Egusa asked, "How can they live up to Al Gore and Bill Cosby? I'm just hoping that people won't be disappointed this year, because the past two years have been really good people. I was hoping for a woman speaker."

Zerhouni received his medical degree from the University of Algiers and then served as

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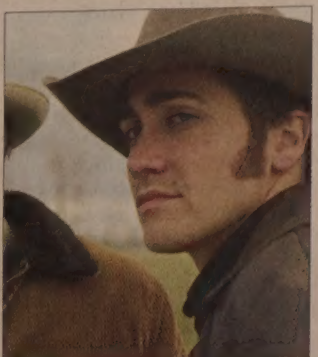


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NEWS

Health issues resolved in E. Baltimore construction

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using the original method of demolition," Gomez said.

Concern among residents was prompted at the discovery of an article published by Mark Farfel — at the time a Bloomberg School of Public Health researcher at the Kennedy Krieger Institute — which stated that the heavy concentration of lead dust in the air during demolition would be harmful to residents, resident Lisa Williams said.

"When we read it, we said 'Something is wrong with how demolition is going to happen,'" she said.

Once residents became vocal, "Dr. Farfel tried to disclaim the article," Williams said. "He would not talk about the article. It was like a gag order."

"EBDI did not stop the demolition until we went on the radio and made the concerns of the report public. When they were embarrassed publicly was when the demolition stopped," Williams added.

After outcry from residents prompted consultation with a panel of experts, EBDI devel-

oped a protocol to use for the demolition of all buildings affected by the project.

"We're doing a piece by piece breakdown of the properties rather than taking a ball and having stuff go all over the place," said Paula Johnson Branch, city council representative for the 18th District. "The process is more detailed and systematic about removing the lead."

The protocol developed by EBDI called for third party monitoring for air and soil testing for the duration of the process, safe removal and disposal of items with high lead content, use of water to reduce the spread of dust, demolition using the "picker method," fencing to control debris and dust and salvation and preservation of historically significant items.

"It is our intention to improve the existing demolition protocol used for previous demolitions of such structures in Baltimore and employ the most up-to-date techniques to further maximize safety precautions during the demolition

process," EBDI stated in its demolition protocol.

The protocol also called for improved notification to residents and area organizations about when demolition will be occurring by posting signage on houses pre-demolition.

"When they started demolition right across from my home, EBDI put no notification out," Williams said.

"There were flyers put on cars of Hopkins employees telling them that there was going to be demolition and not to park in the area, but residents were not notified," she added.

Gomez called the city's previous demolition protocol "very poor," citing that there are no requirements concerning houses containing lead and asbestos to be watered down, which would allow for settling particles to fall into neighboring houses.

"About two years ago, we stopped it. For about 18 months we rallied and stopped it and made them come up with a different protocol," Gomez said.

In a letter written to Mayor O'Malley in the summer of 2004, Raymond Winbush, direc-

tor of Morgan State University's Institute for Urban Research, expressed his concerns with the progress of the demolition.

"We have been informed that rather than seeking safer ways to reduce potential harm to the health of the residents during demolition, EBDI has instead been primarily focused on blocking the potential injunction process," Winbush wrote.

"This is negotiating in bad faith and clearly shows only secondary regard for the safety of Baltimoreans living in this neighborhood."

A study conducted at the Bloomberg School of Public Health concluded that demolition of houses in the East Baltimore area would result in "excessive amounts of lead and other particulate matter in the air which would pose a risk of lead poisoning and exacerbation of respiratory and cardiovascular illness in residents," Winbush said.

Gomez said that this would have been particularly dangerous for the East Baltimore community because they have, according to the Baltimore City Health Department, the highest rates of asthma, respiratory illnesses, lung and other cancer, and cardiovascular diseases in the nation.

Prior to adoption of the protocol, the new demolition techniques were tested on 16 properties on Madison Street last August.

"It was shown to be quite effective and shown to be well below safe levels of lead and other contaminants," Shannon said.

Both Gomez and Shannon said that they hope the protocol developed for the demolition of properties in the East Baltimore area will set precedents for future urban demolitions.

"We're pushing the Casey foundation to be advocates for the city to do demolition like this and to adopt a protocol that decreases lead fall into houses in urban areas," Gomez said.

"We would also like to see this applied to other large scale projects throughout the county," Shannon said.

Demolition of the remaining 500 buildings will occur later this spring.



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE SUN
Donta Allen was arrested in April 2005 for the murder of Hopkins senior Linda Trinh.

New evidence delays Trinh murder trial

By XIAO-BO YUAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The trial of Donta M. Allen, the suspect indicted last spring for the homicide of Hopkins senior Linda Trinh, faces a second postponement due to a request filed by both the prosecution and defense for an extension in preparation time, said Baltimore City Circuit Court spokesman Joseph Sviatko.

Originally set for Jan. 17, Allen's appearance in court is now set to occur in late April, nearly a year after the arraignment at which Baltimore City prosecutors announced that they were seeking a life sentence without possibility of parole for Allen on charges of first-degree murder, assault and reckless endangerment.

A circuit court document listed the "length of case, out of state witnesses and volume of materials ... to be presented" as the primary reasons for the postponement.

According to Warren A. Brown, Allen's defense attorney, both sides requested a postponement in order to have more time to review evidence and gather witnesses.

"There has been new evidence," Brown said, although he added that he had not yet seen the specifics.

Although Baltimore City Police Commissioner Richard Falteich announced last May that DNA evidence "clearly, unequivocally, categorically" linked Allen to the murder, the exact DNA evidence has not been made known to the defense, Brown said.

Prosecutors, who are required by law to share all discoveries of evidence with the defense before the trial date,

have not yet met with Allen and his attorney to go over the evidence. Brown confirmed that such a meeting, however, was planned for the near future.

According to the Baltimore City Police Department's report of laboratory analysis, up to 29 DNA analysis tests were ordered for evidence collected at the crime scene and from Trinh's body.

Other case records also hint at the complexities of the evidence. Trinh's autopsy report from Jan. 24, one day after she was found dead in her apartment in The Charles, indicate that she was found with paper envelopes covering both hands — an explanation for which has not been released.

Prosecutor Twila Driggins, a Baltimore City assistant state's attorney, declined to comment on the case.

In addition to the need for more time to review evidence, Brown said that both sides also wished for a presiding judge who could focus solely on Allen's trial. The judge assigned to the Jan. 17 trial, Sylvester Cox, also had a docket full of other trials, which Brown said deterred his ability to give full attention to his client's case.

"This is someone's homicide trial," Brown said. "We wanted a judge whose docket was completely clear for at least a week."

The first postponement of Allen's trial was granted last August, when the defendant waived his right to a speedy trial.

Allen is currently being held at the Baltimore City detention center. The trial is now tentatively scheduled for Apr. 25 in the Mitchell Courthouse, with Judge Roger Brown presiding.

Tuition to rise at fastest rate in 20 years

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similar to Hopkins charge, that would be one thing. We had a need to pay for things that are directly related to University life, in this case safety for our students."

Falk pointed out that the increase also came about because the University wanted to be able to continue to make improvements without taking funding away from current programs.

"One way of thinking about this tuition increase is to say that you have certain costs that you can't avoid or absorb and you don't want to cut back on programs," he said.

The other question that the hike has brought up is whether tuition will continue to rise at such a high rate or if it will return to the 4.9 percent increase of previous years.

Administrators, like University Provost Steven Knapp, say that the increase is likely to be a one-time occurrence, and is hopeful the new higher tuition will be able to cover future expenses.

"The new higher tuition will increase the size of the budgets for the schools enough, we believe, to offset those additional costs [of security, healthcare and energy] and kind of reset the tuition a little bit," he said.

He added that increases in past years have been relatively low, and with the new tuition there will be more money available for the University to cover costs and maintain financial aid and academic programs.

"Past increases have been just enough to keep pace with the cost of living plus the increase in financial aid with nothing to spend on program and infrastructure. I think we'll return much more to a pattern like past years," Knapp said.

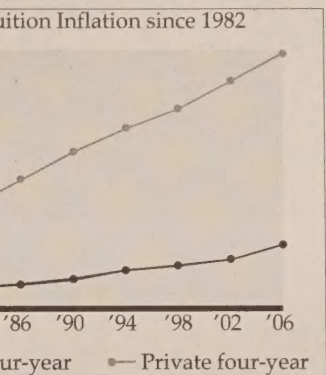
Nationally, tuition rates at private universities have gone up at an increasing rate. Tuitions went up by an average of 3.7 percent (after adjusting for inflation) at such institutions, according to an article in the Jan. 6 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education — an increase over last year's 2.7 percent.

University officials nationwide do not decide tuition increases based on the Consumer Price Index, one of the tools used to determine the national inflation rate. Instead, colleges look at the Higher Education Price Index, which is based on a different basket of goods that universities use more than the average American.

There are over 100 items on the HEPI, including salaries and benefits for all employees, equipment, transportation, utilities, among others.

The HEPI is not just used to determine tuition, but to calculate the budget of all the University's divisions as well.

By way of explanation of how Hopkins prioritizes its spending, Falk said, "When you face a difficult budget environment the most important thing is to rigorously identify what is the core of what you do. It's clear that the core is our academic of-



WILLIAM PARSHALK/NEWS-LETTER
The average tuition at both public and private universities nationwide has been increasing steadily for the past two decades.

research and overall prestige of the school ... but right now it seems like the campus is just expanding."

He added, "I think the efforts for security are important. But someone just got mugged by Calvert at gunpoint, so what can you do?"

Hopkins receives \$100 million contribution

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Because the University is protecting the anonymity of the benefactor and the specifics of how the funds will be allocated, O'Shea could not comment on exactly how much money was being directed toward each project.

"A portion of the gift is designed for the renovation of Gilman Hall, which is a critical need for the school of Arts and Sciences," explained O'Shea. "The gift is a critical gift in the finalization of that very important renovation."

Adam Falk, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and one of the main University officials overseeing the Gilman renovation, explained that the plan is a "multi-year, multi-phase project ... and is expected to cost \$35 million."

"The impact of this gift is very strong," he said, in that it enables the University "to move through the other phases of the project more quickly."

The planned renovation, which is scheduled to take place over the course of several years, will include an overhaul of the basement floor, the modernization of heating and air-conditioning systems, updating of mechanical and electrical systems, and the conversion of previously unused spaces into new offices and classrooms.

But when asked if the additional funding would affect or change the plans in any specific way, Falk commented, "There's nothing specific that this makes

possible that wasn't possible before," and that "we have to do significant fundraising even with this gift."

"What this means is that we are able to move ahead with much greater confidence that we're going to meet the goal," explained Jerome Schnydmann, Secretary to the Board of Trustees and Executive Assistant to the President.

"This gives us a big shot in the arm that will ensure that the project will be done."

Students agreed, and reacted positively to the news of the

donation, despite the fact that the majority of the projects toward which the funds will be allocated involve non-Homewood locations.

"I think that renovating Gilman Hall will be a great way to improve our campus," said sophomore Farah Qureshi. "I think Gilman really defines this campus ... and a renovation would really improve the quality of our classes."

Junior Helena Franceschi echoed those sentiments, saying, "I'm overjoyed that Gilman is going to be receiving so many needed repairs ... lately it's been very dingy and downright gross."

When asked if the donation would have a directly positive effect on the quality of student life and education at Hopkins, Schnydmann was emphatic.

"This will provide something great for our undergraduates," said Schnydmann. "I think it's fabulous."

This will provide something great for our undergraduates.
—JEROME SCHNYDMAN,
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

News Briefs

Hopkins announces on-campus parking for commuters and upperclassmen

In response to recent neighborhood parking restrictions, the University now offers monthly parking passes to seniors, juniors and commuter students. The passes, available at the Shriver Hall parking office, will allow students to park at the either the San Martin Center Garage and the Ellerslie Satellite Lot. The San Martin passes are priced at \$280 per semester for on-campus parking behind the Nichols House. As the San Martin Center Garage is accessible 24-hours, the passes provide an overnight parking option. In contrast, the Ellerslie

Satellite Lot depends on weekday shuttles to carry students between Homewood and the lot a mile east of campus. The shuttle only runs from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; overnight parking is not available at the location.

Students wishing to apply for parking pass need to register in person at Shriver Hall, suite seven. Proof of residency in non-Hopkins housing, proof of class standing and current class registration or schedule, vehicle registration and a valid J-Card are required for students wishing to apply.

—James Lee

On two occasions, students fall victim to off-campus armed robberies

On the night of Jan. 30 a series of armed robberies occurred in the Charles Village area. The first incident took place on North Charles Street three blocks south of the Homewood Apartments.

A senior was walking and after passing two males he was attacked from behind and forced to the ground. His wallet was taken and the robbers fled. It is suspected that these same two males also approached three juniors at gunpoint an hour later on North Calvert Street. After taking the students' wallets the pair fled.

Also, an undergraduate student reported being threatened at gunpoint by two black males (both of whom match the description of the other assailant). The student ran without relinquishing his wallet.

Campus Safety and Security filed a report describing the two assailants as black men in their late teens to early twenties who were approximately six feet tall. One assailant had cornrows and was wearing a knit cap. The other weighed an estimated 160 to 170 pounds and was carrying a dark handgun.

—Christine Higgins

Symposium selection process faces scrutiny

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as we realized the problem and we did everything we could to ensure a fair vote.

"We're not going to pick MSE chairs based on individuals' friends," Garvin said. "We want the best programs possible for Hopkins students. I read all the reports and the winning team has the most organized and realistic program."

Due to Garvin's absence Altair Peterson, Sarah David, Kane Kim and Jason Imbrogno, the four members of the group with alleged assistance, called for the decision to be appealed by StuCo.

"We felt that because of Garvin's absence she wasn't able to see the strongest part of our proposal. We had an interactive Web site and CD-ROMs that outlined our financing proposals and fund-raising plans," Peterson said.

"And the fact that COLA is elected is hardly justification for the power they are given. The voting process is basically unopposed. We should have had the opportunity to present in front of all of StuCo and an overseer."

"Not having an odd number of representatives is obviously ridiculous, and this kind of situation proves StuCo's inefficacy," Shenai said. "Our hands are tied and if we came down to a two-two split there are no bylaws in our constitution to cure that."

"I not only believe that there was a great conflict of interest present, but that this is too

large of a job for such a small committee," Chair of the Committee on Authorization Zach Moore said. "It is not a democratic enough representation, as four people wield disproportionate power. Thus its my recommendation that it cede such a large responsibility to the larger council and the true voices of the students."

"I like to believe four members should be trusted," Leslie Shoeck said. "But more opinions on campus should be involved with the vote."

"I put a lot of faith in COLA and its chair to be as fair as they possibly can," Director of Student Involvement Jeff Groden Thomas said. "The current constitution was ratified by StuCo and the student body three years ago and allocated four members to COLA."

"We are responsible for the appointment of the leaders of about eight groups on campus, including Ethics Board, Spring Fair and, now, Security Council," Koenig said. "It's a lot of pressure, but all of StuCo have equally important jobs. It's not as if they are only people with power, and trusted to be fair. And we do have an overseer: Jeff Groden Thomas."

However, during the nomination, Farber, Massoudi and Shoeck requested to have an overseer present and did not receive one. "Jeff Groden-Thomas has the power to override us and he wouldn't allow poor decisions," Koenig said.

Dir. of NIH to speak at Commencement

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chief resident in diagnostic radiology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was later appointed a full professor and chair of the Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences. Since 1992, he has served as the 15th Director of the NIH, instituting policies that have increased the NIH budget and expanded its research.

Zerhouni also spoke as part of the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium last year. Senior Babak Mostaghimi says, "He was a good speaker, used humor a bit and had a good message talking about research and how it will develop the future."

Senior class president Natavadee Temkasem is happy to have secured Zerhouni as graduation speaker.

She said, "I hope everyone in the senior class will be as excited as I am when they hear this good news, but I know that they'll be very pleased on May 25 after hearing this incredible man speak at our graduation."

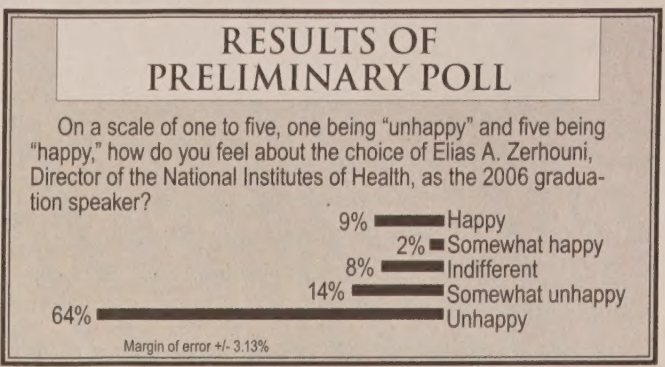
According to University policy, the graduation speaker is not paid, so securing a speaker requires finding connections within the Hopkins community to that individual. First, a mass e-mail asking for suggestions was sent out to the senior class in the summer before fall semester and over 600 responses were received. Student Council then compiled a list of 10 to 15 potential speakers based on the recommendations.

Director of Student Involvement Jeffrey Groden-Thomas said, "We never divulge who was on that list. What we never want to do is to have someone who was chosen be offended by the fact that they were not the first choice. It's a courtesy to the people that we choose."

The list is compiled by the senior class, but securing the number one speaker requires finding people who may have connections to that person. Groden-Thomas said, "For example, Hillary Clinton may be on the list, but the senior class may not know anyone who knows Hillary Clinton."

Mostaghimi feels the senior class did not have enough say in who they wanted their speaker to be. He explained, "I think the problem was that StuCo had too much on their plate. Input was there by the seniors but planning didn't occur far enough in advance."

He added, "I wanted Jon



557 members of the senior class voted in yesterday's poll. The results are noted above.

Stewart because I think he would have made a fantastic speaker. He would have been funny and policy-oriented at the same time, so it would bring in all audiences. Pretty much everyone I know was in support of having Jon Stewart as the speaker."

Temkasem admitted to having some difficulty securing the speaker this year. She said, "It

proved to be particularly difficult this year to secure our target speaker because of many reasons: time, money, connections, etc."

She added, "Every year, every class goes through many problems and one of them is securing a speaker. I don't know how to explain it in details; securing a speaker is simply a difficult job."

Search for Arts and Sciences dean ends

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It forces you to stop everything else you're doing ... The highest priority is making sure everyone feels safe in [the] community."

Falk has been involved in the many security changes that have taken place in the last year.

"There is a tension here," Falk said. "We want people to not only be safe but feel safe. How visible should security be? There is no single answer to this. In the end you have to do the thing you think will keep students safest and hope people understand why we're doing them."

In addition, Falk has also worked on several continuing initiatives designed to enhance the experience of undergraduates. The most ambitious of these is Charles Commons, a University-sponsored project which will provide retail space and four-year undergraduate housing.

The Charles Commons project, Falk said, is "not just 600-some beds. It will be the center of life east of Charles Street. After six months, we won't be

able to figure out how we lived without it."

Changes to the campus dining program are also underway. The school meal plan has been a focus of student complaints, and Hopkins' food has consistently received poor rankings by the Princeton Review. In response to this, Falk said, the contract of the current provider of dining services, Sodexo, has been opened for bidding.

"But to be fair to Sodexo, it's not all their fault," Falk said. Sodexo provides food at other colleges, and it's better. It's also about facilities, the structure of the dining program. We've done very serious work over the past year."

Falk also hopes to see continuing improvement in a sense of community at Hopkins. "There's a sense that we're not knit together in the way we need to be. ... There is warmth missing, but we've made tremendous progress. It's a work in progress."

Falk also plans to continue his work to improve campus security, renovate Gilman Hall and other buildings, improve undergraduate lab facilities,

improve undergraduate curricula, provide scholarships, and increase graduate student stipends.

"If we get all that done in the next 12 months, I'll be tickled pink," Falk said.

Political science professor Steven David, who serves under Falk as the Vice Dean for Centers and Programs, said of Falk, "He's smart, engaged, a nice guy, he deeply cares and has the ability to transform that care into practical changes."

Physics professor Steven Beckwith said, "I think Dean Falk served very ably as interim dean. I have complete confidence in him."

"I'm hoping he'll be a strong advocate for Arts and Sciences in a university that is dominated by the medical profession," Beckwith added.

Mathematics professor Jack Morava said, "I think Falk has done great work and I'm very happy with the appointment."

Senior Jared Evans learned quantum mechanics from Falk last year. "He's the best professor I've ever had ... If he does half as good a job as he did as a professor, he'll be incredible," he said.

Evans is pleased by Falk's performance as interim dean, especially with the Charles Commons project.

"Most of the changes [I'd like to see] are already underway," Evans said.

Alumnus Michael Schmidt also took quantum mechanics with Falk. "He's one of the two or three top professors at Hopkins that I've had ... He knows what it takes to run a research institution," he said.

Schmidt also noted that he would have liked to see a stronger sense of community at Hopkins. "I know a lot of students who feel like it's an academic factory — churn out degrees, churn out students. But the academics are top-notch ... Obviously we have a reputation as a bit nerdy. To see people more involved would be something I'd like to see."

Which comes first – the egg or the cure?

It could happen to you or your loved one:

- * Diabetes
- * Heart disease
- * Spinal cord injuries
- * Parkinson's disease
- * Blindness
- * Strokes, AIDS, MS, cancer, among others

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Women needed to donate eggs for stem cell research project.
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Deadline: February 14th @ 11:59pm

Friday, February 17th
Group of 8 Assignment
Notification Letters sent out by 5:00pm

WORLD NEWS

News Briefs

Alito splits with conservatives on first ruling, sides with inmate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Samuel Alito split with the court's conservatives Wednesday night, refusing to let Missouri execute a death-row inmate contesting lethal injection.

Alito, handling his first case, sided with inmate Michael Taylor, who had won a stay from an appeals court earlier in the evening. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas supported lifting the stay, but Alito joined the remaining five members in turning down Missouri's last-minute request to allow a midnight execution.

Earlier in the day, Alito was sworn in for a second time in a White House ceremony, where he was lauded by President Bush as a man of "steady demeanor, careful judgment and complete integrity."

He was also given his assignment for handling emergency appeals: Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. As a result, Missouri filed with Alito its request for the high court to void a stay and allow Taylor's execution.

The court's split vote Wednesday night ended a frenzied day of filings.

Missouri twice asked the justices to intervene and permit the execution, while Taylor's lawyers filed two more appeals seeking delays.

Reporters and witnesses had gathered at the state prison awaiting word from the high court on whether to go ahead with the execution.

An appeals court will now review Taylor's claim that lethal injection is cruel and unusual punishment, a claim also used by two Florida death-row inmates that won stays from the Supreme Court over the past week.

— Gina Holland
The Associated Press

Saudi Arabia and Qatar to fund Palestine after Hamas victory

RAMALLAH (AP) — Israel froze the transfer of millions of dollars in tax rebates and customs payments to the Palestinian Authority, and Palestinian officials said Wednesday that Saudi Arabia and Qatar have promised \$33 million in quick aid to ease a severe budget crisis.

Saudi Arabia promised \$20 million and Qatar pledged \$13 million to help the Palestinian Authority pay January salaries to 137,000 employees, a senior Palestinian official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not final.

Earlier, Israel said it was suspending the transfer of \$45 million in tax and customs revenues it collected in January while Western nations weigh whether to continue supporting the Palestinian Authority after Hamas, with its history of suicide bombings and rejection of Israel, forms a government.

The Israeli action could cause unrest in the West Bank and Gaza. Western donors, led by the U.S. and EU, funnel about \$900 million to the Palestinians each year, most of it designated for reconstruction projects in the impoverished Gaza Strip and West Bank. They are reconsidering that funding, demanding that Hamas recognize Israel and renounce violence.

The 137,000 people on the Palestinian Authority payroll, including almost 60,000 security officers, are supposed to receive their salaries Thursday.

Even with promises of new aid, a Palestinian official said the checks would not be ready until Monday at the earliest.

Even a week's delay could mean hardship for large numbers of Palestinians.

— Mohammed Daraghmeh
The Associated Press

W. Va. governor attempts halt in coal mines for safety checks

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP) — Gov. Joe Manchin called for all coal companies in West Virginia to shut down for safety checks after two more mine workers were killed Wednesday in separate accidents.

While Manchin's call was voluntary, he also ordered mine inspections speeded up so that all 544 of the state's surface and underground mines are examined by regulators as soon as possible.

"We're going to check for unsafe conditions, and we're going to correct any unsafe conditions before we mine another lump of coal," Manchin said.

David Dye, acting U.S. assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health, later urged coal mines nationwide to conduct safety and training sessions on Monday for workers at the beginning of each shift. He cited the recent upsurge in mine accidents.

"I am asking miners and management at every mine operation to do the right thing: take one hour out for safety's sake this Monday," Dye said in a statement.

Both deaths Wednesday occurred at mines in southwestern West Virginia, officials said. One miner was killed at an underground mine when a wall support popped loose. And a bulldozer operator died at a surface mine when the vehicle struck a gas line and sparked a fire.

The deaths brought to 16 the number of mining-related fatalities in West Virginia since Jan. 2.

Manchin said the safety checks would include reviewing mine conditions, safety checklists and designated escape routes.

The West Virginia Coal Association, whose members account for 80 percent of the state's coal production, said its members would heed the governor's request.

— Lawrence Messina
The Associated Press

Bush warns not to expect oil price breaks

By **TERENCE HUNT**
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — President Bush defended the huge profits of Exxon Mobil Corp. Wednesday, saying they are simply the result of the marketplace and that consumers socked with soaring energy costs should not expect price breaks.

In an interview with The Asso-

ciated Press, Bush also addressed oil's future, offering a more ambitious hope than in his State of the Union speech for cutting imports from the volatile Mideast.

However, he said that his oft-stated goal of a Palestinian state in the region cannot be realized if a Hamas-led government refuses to renounce its desire to destroy Israel.

Bush, a former Texas oilman,

said of oil costs, "I think that basically the price is determined by the marketplace and that's the way it should be."

"I believe in a relatively quick period of time, within my lifetime, we'll be able to reduce if not end dependence on Middle Eastern oil by this new technology" of converting corn, wood, grasses and other products into ethanol, he said

In his address Tuesday night, Bush had set a goal of reducing the nation's Mideast oil imports by 75 percent by 2025.

With three years left in his second term, Bush declined to say what — if any — role he would take in the selection of a Republican candidate to succeed him in the 2008 presidential race. But he accepted the proposition that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice would not be a contender.

Insurgents thwart Iraqi reconstruction

By **JIM KRANE**
The Associated Press

DUBAI (AP) — Guerrilla attacks in Iraq have forced the cancellation of more than 60 percent of water and sanitation projects, in part because American intelligence failed to predict the brutal insurgency, a U.S. government audit said.

American goals to fix Iraq's infrastructure will never be reached, mainly because insurgents have chased away contractors and forced the diversion of repair funds into security, according to an audit of the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Program released last week.

It is the latest in a series of auditing reports being issued by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

The rise of Iraq's insurgency was never envisioned by U.S. officials, who originally budgeted about 9 percent of reconstruction aid for project security, the audit said.

As kidnappings, killings and sabotage drove local laborers and foreign technicians from the reconstruction program, U.S. administrators were forced to step up protection for workers.

New measures like armored vehicles, private security teams and blast walls absorbed as much as 22 percent of costs, according to the audit by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

"The whole purpose of those attacks was to drive those contractors out," said Wayne White, who headed the State Department's Iraq intelligence team until last

year. "Lots of them had to leave. They were terrified."

Planners "envisioned a much more permissive security environment than that experienced in 2004 and 2005."

The Iraq insurgency has directly affected the cost of the reconstruction projects, increased the cost of materials and created project delays," the audit found.

Pre-invasion U.S. intelligence reports said guerrilla attacks were likely, White said.

"But nobody predicted anything of this magnitude in terms of resistance," said White, now an analyst with the Middle East Institute in Washington.

"And in part, the magnitude of the resistance was spurred by our failures in reconstruction."

"I think you need to take her at her word that she's not running," Bush said in a conversation on Air Force One as he flew to Tennessee for a speech.

"My political focus is on 2006," said Bush, who plans a major campaign role this year in the midterm congressional elections.

"To the extent that I am thinking politics, it is to retain the [Republican] leadership of the House and the Senate."

Early this week, Exxon reported record profits of \$10.71 billion for the fourth quarter and \$36.13 billion for the year — the largest of any U.S. company. While some politicians raised furious objections, Bush had a different reaction.

"There is a marketplace in American society," he said.

"There's also a responsibility for energy companies to continue to invest and improve the ways that the American people can get energy," he said.

Investigation blames White House, Chertoff for Katrina failures

By **LARA JAKES JORDAN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff failed to provide decisive action when Hurricane Katrina struck, congressional investigators said Wednesday in a stinging assessment of slow federal relief efforts.

The White House had no clear chain of command in place, investigators with the Government Accountability Office said, laying much of the blame on President Bush for not designating a single official to coordinate federal decision-making for the Aug. 29 storm.

Bush has accepted responsibility for the government's halting response, but for the most part then-FEMA Director Michael Brown, who quit days after the hurricane hit, has been the public face of the failures.

"That's up to the president of the United States," GAO Comptroller General David M. Walker told reporters after being asked whether Chertoff should have been the lead official during the emergency.

"It could have been Secretary Chertoff" or someone on the White House staff, Walker added. "That's up to the president."

The report, which the congressional agency said was preliminary, also singled out Chertoff for several shortcomings. Chertoff has largely escaped direct criticism for the government's poor preparations and slow rescue efforts.

The Homeland Security Department angrily responded to the GAO report, calling the preliminary findings a publicity stunt riddled with errors. Homeland Security oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency and issued a national plan last year for coordinating federal disaster response with state and local agencies.

In their nine-page report, investigators noted that they had urged the Clinton White House to appoint a single disaster coordinator more than a decade ago after the destruction wrought by Hurricane Andrew.

Still, they said, the Bush administration continued the failure with the lack of a clear chain of command and that led to internal confusion when Katrina struck.

"In the absence of timely and decisive action and clear leadership responsibility and accountability, there were multiple chains of command," the report found.

The assessment — the first of several reports about the response to Katrina — noted that Chertoff authorized additional federal assistance to overwhelmed state

and local resources on Aug. 30, a day after the storm hit. But Chertoff did not specifically classify the storm as a catastrophic disaster, which would have triggered a faster response.

"As a result, the federal response generally was to wait for the affected states to request assistance," the report found.

In another stab at Chertoff, the report called for Homeland Security

to provide stronger advance training and planning for future disasters — including taking better advantage of the military's ability to rescue and evacuate victims, provide supplies and assess damage.

Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocke called the report misleading because federal officials and supplies were already at the Gulf Coast before Katrina hit.

He said Chertoff did not activate a government plan for dealing with catastrophes because it is used only to respond to unexpected disasters.

The report "displays a significant misunderstanding of core aspects of the Katrina response that could have easily been corrected in the most basic conversations with" Homeland Security leaders, Knocke said.

Thank you.

The *News-Letter* recently completed a significant upgrade and renovation of its facilities within the Gatehouse. These changes mark the beginning of a new period in the development of Hopkins' student newspaper. But none of this could have been accomplished without the sacrifices made by a select group of our selfless, dedicated friends.

Our endless thanks are owed to:

Bill Smedick
Fred Bosworth
D. Lynn O'Neil

Mike Sullivan
Jim and Tom
Mamie Howard

Anne Pliska
David Ashwood and the Plant Ops Staff
All others who quickly and quietly worked behind the scenes

With great thanks,
Brendan and Sarah

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

A sense of warmth

We are relieved that the search for the James B. Knapp Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences is finally over. With the selection of interim Dean Adam Falk as the permanent dean, Hopkins looks poised to focus on the long-term goals that were delayed by the dean search. But challenges remain as Falk adapts to his new role. He will be confronted with multiple allegiances, forcing him to don the hats of the academic, the administrator, the fundraiser and many more. We hope the most important role rises to the top: that of an advocate for the students — before the school — to provide the highest quality experience for undergraduates.

For too long students have felt estranged from the administration, inhibiting the sense of community that Falk emphasized in his agenda. Now he has the opportunity to change that perception. We would like to see him emerge as the face of the administration for Krieger students; someone students could recognize and feel comfortable talking to while walking through the Breezeway. Falk must be the visible liaison between students and administration, the one who students approach with their administrative concerns, perhaps while sharing lunch with him the dining halls.

On the academics front, we would like to see Falk address the concern that many on campus have raised: greater graduate student stipends, especially for those in the arts. Many grad students are teaching our classes while hovering dangerously close to the poverty line, and we hope to see them be able to teach and study with-

out having to worry about how they will afford basic necessities and paying off student loans.

And once those grad students are better compensated, we hope to be able to enroll in our preferred classes without camping out at pre-registration. Many departments (English, Writing Seminars and political science especially) are currently unable to satisfy their enrollment demands. Some English and Writing Seminars students find themselves making the regrettable choice between sleeping outside the department office before preregistration or getting none of their first-choice classes. Needless to say, this is unacceptable for \$40,000 per year. Increasing class offerings needs to be a top priority.

Though we recognize that the University endowment is stretched and tuition costs threaten to push out a core of middle-class students, Falk must not allow his role as a fundraiser to stand in the way of his advocacy of the students. President Brody is an excellent fundraiser, but his work leaves little time for interaction with students. Falk must fill in the gap.

Falk has it absolutely right when he said “there is warmth missing” at Hopkins. Especially in light of the prevalent safety concerns and intensified security measures, the campus seems much colder. But with Charles Commons and other initiatives underway, we hope that Falk will strive to continue to improve the undergraduate experience. With any luck, he can bring to Hopkins the warmth of community we’ve been missing.

Zer-who-ni?

How many Hopkins seniors knew who Elias Zerhouni was before he was announced as 2006 Commencement speaker? Perhaps a few members of the graduating class from the handful of students who showed up for Zerhouni’s MSE Symposium lecture last year, or a few pre-meds who are up to speed on the identity of this National Institutes of Health chief. Outside of a very circumscribed group of seniors, Zerhouni’s name is completely unfamiliar. In our view, this makes Zerhouni a questionable choice as graduation speaker.

In the recent past, we’ve had such well-known graduation speakers as Al Gore, Bill Cosby and Tom Brokaw. These speakers had broad appeal, even to graduating seniors who might not have been specifically interested in politics, entertainment or journalism. However, Zerhouni doesn’t have much crowd appeal to people beyond the pre-med clique. His recognizability can be summed up by the slack attendance at his MSE speech last year; only about 30 students showed.

Also, it’s surprising that the people in charge of commencement would choose to bring back a speaker who had already spoken at Hopkins in the recent past. Couldn’t they have found someone new?

That said, there are good things about the Zerhouni pick. He has strong ties to Hopkins. Through hard work and dedication, he has risen to a position of power and influence. Still, these facts aren’t enough to make the senior class happy. They want Conan; they want Oprah.

A preliminary online *News-Letter* poll has revealed that over 78 percent of 557 seniors polled are either “unhappy” (64 percent) or “somewhat

unhappy” (14 percent) with the choice of graduation speaker. This is the seniors’ day. Clearly, Zerhouni is not in line with their wishes.

Part of the problem is that Hopkins will only host graduation speakers who speak for free. Perhaps if we set aside some more money for commencement, we could pull in the types of speakers who truly have broad appeal.

Facing a narrow field of possible graduation speakers at the hands of an empty budget, the senior class representatives who were involved in the selection process admittedly had a difficult job. The representatives will never be able to find a graduation speaker who pleases everyone, but they owe it to their peers to do everything in their power to find a speaker with broad appeal. The current senior class representatives do not necessarily have the connections that have served previous selection committees. But undoubtedly, other students in the class of 2006 do. If the representatives were struggling, they should have turned to the senior class for help (that’s how we got George H.W. Bush in 1996). Many seniors have gained contacts to potential speakers through internships, family connections and other means. This year, these resources and connections were not sufficiently tapped.

The University must step up its efforts to aid the senior class representatives by soliciting more of its big name connections. Beyond that, the University needs to strongly consider changing its policy of only accepting free speakers. Seniors want to end their time at Hopkins with a speaker they know and will remember, and not with a sense of bitterness.

Reform COLA now

As the annual appointment of the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium co-chairs by the Student Council Committee on Leadership Appointments (COLA) was announced recently, so too were allegations of bias, inadequate supervision and corruption. The continuing failure of COLA to act legitimately makes it crucial that we change its structure to include administrators as well as students.

COLA is composed of one elected student council officer from each class. These four members are vested with the power to appoint not only the MSE co-chairs, but also the leaders of the Ethics Board, the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP), Spring Fair and the Security Council. Again, this year, COLA proved itself incapable of performing properly and without accusations of impropriety.

A lot of students don’t really care about COLA, or even know what it is. But all students care about the quality of events on campus. They care about this year’s Spring Fair being better than last, this year’s MSE speakers being more impressive and this year’s HOP band being amazing. The success of these events depends on the skill and dedication of their leaders. COLA picks these leaders. Four people. If you thought COLA was irrelevant, think again.

Because of COLA’s small size, conflicts of interest easily disrupt its functioning. Each member holds a significant portion of the vote, so the incentive to vote for one’s own interests is increased. For this reason, the incentive for losing leadership candidates to cry foul is also greater.

Conflicts of interest are augmented, rather than diffused, under the present system.

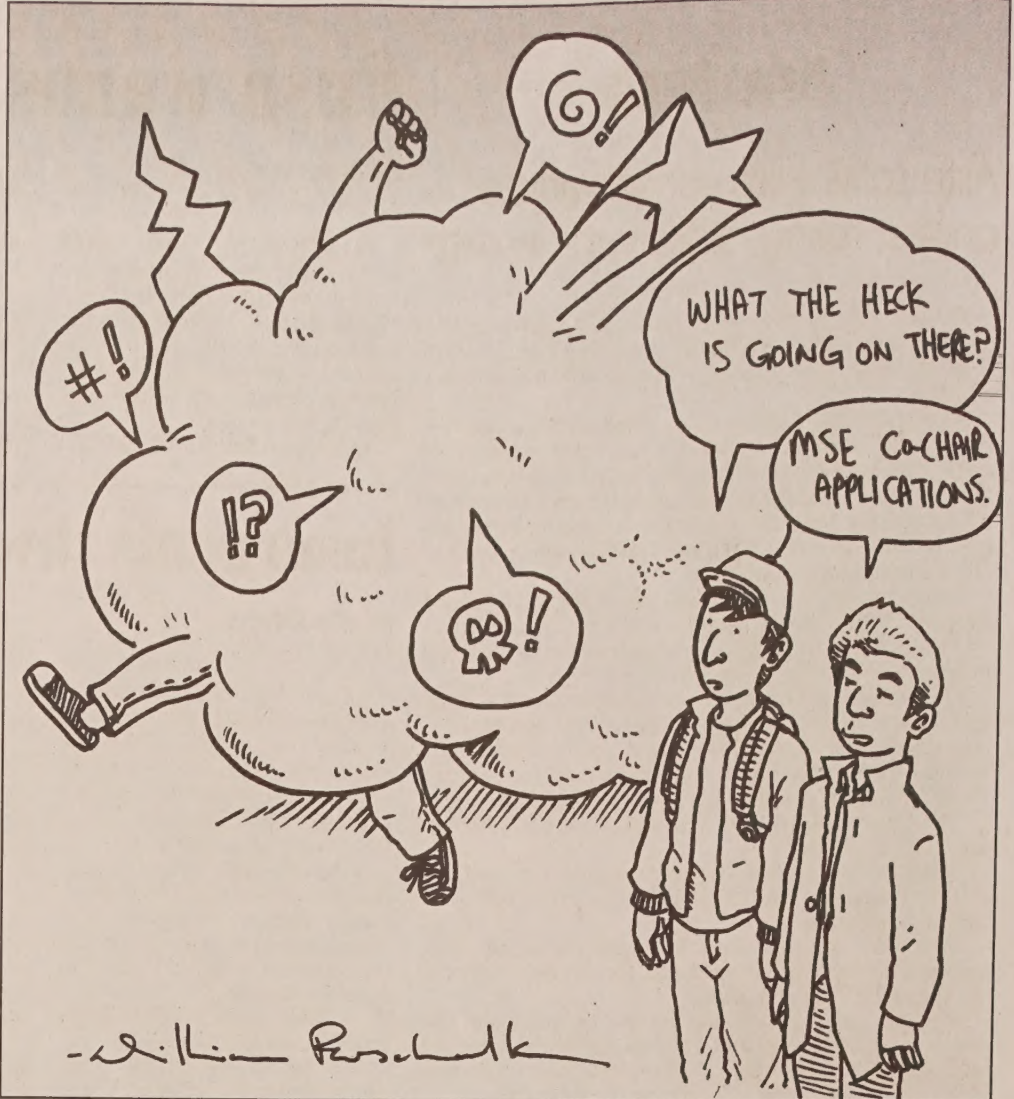
COLA must be expanded to include more than just four viewpoints. We propose making COLA a seven-member committee by adding three administrators: one from the Office of the Dean of Student Life, one from the Office of Student Involvement and the last from Alumni Relations. This change would finally bring some legitimacy to one of the most powerful — and over-politicized — groups on campus, as well as adding the possibility of using our alumni as a resource in the process.

Under this proposal, students would maintain a majority on the committee. Also, having an odd number of members would remove the possibility of a tie; COLA’s bylaws don’t even have a rule for dealing with ties in the four-member committee.

Student input in the decision making process is key. At the same time, administrator input adds an element that students cannot: the experience of having seen the pros and cons of past elected student leaders. More importantly, administrators are virtually guaranteed to be free of the same social conflicts of interest that may influence the students’ votes. We are members of a relatively small community of 4,000. The pool of students who are involved in leadership on campus is far smaller. In this environment, everybody knows everybody.

COLA is too important for us not to care about making it legitimate. Let’s add three administrators and ensure that our campus leaders are elected fairly.

William Parschalk



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Education op-ed poorly informed

In James Lee’s opinion piece on education (“Education act leaves kids behind,” Dec. 9), he demonstrates a lack of understanding of our public education system. His advocacy of a federally mandated curriculum is both impossible and foolish.

It is impossible because of the way that our public schools are funded. I doubt Lee knows that most public schools get less than 10 percent of their budgets from the federal government. In fact, most public schools don’t even get the majority of their money from state government. Public schools are funded primarily by local taxes, usually property taxes. As the old saying goes, “He who pays the piper calls the tune.” In other words, the federal government would have no way to compel state — much less local — governments to

adopt their curriculum.

The federal curriculum proposal is also wrong-headed because it goes against the federalist principles that have served our country so well. To suggest that the same curriculum would work for every school from Beverly Hills, Calif., to Atlanta, Ga., to Billings, Mont., to East Baltimore, is absurd. Local control of schools allows local school boards to address

problems specific to the area that they serve.

This is not the end of the list of problems with Lee’s article. His claim that “disparities in student performance cannot simply be explained away by poor public schools” is faulty, and his assertion that the bar for success is advancement to higher education is also mistaken.

Alex Johnson, Sophomore

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins *News-Letter* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday’s issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and can not be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author’s name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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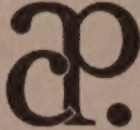
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

A science major crosses to the Dark Side

There probably isn't a student at Hopkins, or any other American university, who hasn't cracked his or her fair share of jokes about the uselessness of majoring in the humanities. Even liberal arts experts have a habit of jovially belittling their studies. Even as arts editor of this very paper, I've taken the occasional dig at the my section's topic matter.

Humor aside, does this widespread disrespect mean that the humanities lack rigor and social application, or that they are intrinsically inferior to the scientific and medical education society highly values? Absolutely not. Such a misperception can be hard to break when a school like Hopkins, with uniformly excellent departments, finds its reputation in the arts perennially compromised.

A recent task force at Hopkins found that there isn't enough artistic engagement at Hopkins. This shouldn't sit well with anyone. Then again, this proclamation shouldn't be surprising in

a school where science students derisively refer to their peers in the humanities as practitioners of "Arts and Crafts" and where film and media studies majors don't garner much respect. Still, there is more to the problem, much of it rooted in broader attitudes.

Take, for instance, the rather formidable task that greeted me this semester: to explain to my parents why, after spending the last half decade

studying to become a research scientist, I had decided to quit the physics department for art history and Writing Seminars. Mom and Dad are still baffled by the news. Somewhere up in Bloomberg, I imagine classrooms full of future physicists — my former classmates — are collectively wondering what on earth happened to Patrick Kennedy. Well, he's in the humanities now.

The truth is that my choice is based on nothing more than personal preference and genuine fascination with my new disciplines. However, will it appear that I am fleeing a chal-

lenge? I have watched plenty of students make similar switches, but have seen none go in the opposite direction: away from art and toward the sciences. Some would assert this statistic reveals the supremacy and greater difficulty of the sciences, and that the flexibility of humanities curriculums lacks order and logic — the very strengths of sequential, regimented courses of scientific study.

I'm not sure which delusion is worse: That the sciences and humanities are separable and antagonistic or that the humanities are the weaker of the two. Part of the problem is that American education, not to mention our friends in the punditry, is set on placing a monomaniacal premium on scientific training. Indeed, I'll be the first to speak up for stem cell research or energy independence, but I don't see any moves to address the stolidity and mediocrity that plague contemporary fine art, literature and yes, journalism.

Without that concern for cultural quality, it's hard to see where scientific advancement holds any social utility at all. To be a viable vehicle for enlightenment, discoveries need to be voiced in a way that cap-

tures the public imagination. This may be why every math or physics professor I talked to was enthusiastic about my literary credentials. Simply put, the arts and humanities are the easiest and often the most cogent ways to transmit scientific truths to a broad audience. Think about that next time you paint writing seminars majors as starving artists.

So what is to be done with a university superficially slanted away from the liberal arts, and a broader public that may well be scrambling in the same direction? I discussed a few ideas last semester with Dean of Student Life Paula Burger, who has been interested in increasing the visibility of campus arts. There are plenty of ways that could work, from a large speaker forum on the arts, to better promotion for high-level humanities research,

including a larger range of internal awards for just this purpose.

I shouldn't have to apologize for trading astrophysics for prose and Picasso, though I

have probably left a long line of New Jersey acquaintances shaking their heads and wondering what went wrong with my life. Yet I can't help but think that all the more "useful" fields of science, medicine and engineering would be aided by an injection of the creative

individuality that drew me to the humanities in the first place.

But that is a topic for another column. If pursued correctly, the arts and humanities can be just as exacting, and just as potent, as anything science has to offer. —Patrick Kennedy is a writing seminars and history of art major, not to mention a former physics and chemistry major, from Watchung, N.J.

Hamas' rise can be traced to U.S. policy

Yasser Arafat's death and the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza represented a ray of hope for Middle East peace advocates. Ariel Sharon's fall from power dimmed that optimism, and Hamas's recent electoral victory may have shat-

Marc Goldwein

To The Point

tered it all together.

Many have blamed the United States for this victory, arguing that we did not provide enough resources and power to Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian authority and leader of the moderate Fatah movement. If we had worked harder to strengthen Fatah, they argue, Hamas would not have been allowed to come to power. These detractors also point to America's push for democracy, and its pro-election neo-conservative movement, as largely responsible for Hamas' devastating victory.

These critics are absolutely correct to blame America for the recent Palestinian election results, but they are dead wrong as to the reasons we are at fault. They believe that Fatah lost the election due to a lack of power, when in fact Fatah's defeat was the result of a continued excess of power — an excess supported by the United States.

For years, we have been giving money and weapons to the Fatah movement. The money was meant for the Palestinian people and the weapons to fight terrorism.

Under Yasser Arafat's leadership, however, the money was used to fund terrorism, and the weapons turned on the Palestinian people. The U.S. stood idly by as it watched the Fatah-controlled Palestinian Authority build up police forces several times larger than they had promised, then use those forces to rule certain parts of the territories with an iron fist. America continued to give foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority, despite common knowledge of Fatah's corruption.

We continued to empower a dangerous movement because we were afraid that without our support for Fatah, more radical movements would prevail.

The sad irony, however, is that our continued support of Fatah made these radicals stronger than they ever could have been on their own. While the average Palestinian gained nothing from the billions of dollars in foreign aid to Fatah, Hamas was providing Palestinians with schools, healthcare and other social services. While the Fatah police created fear among Palestinians, Hamas offered them protection. Hamas's recent victory was not in response to Israeli oppression, but Palestinian oppression.

Critics blame the neoconservatives in the U.S. for pushing elections and point to these election results as proof of the neoconservatives' failed Wilsonian ideology.

The real problem is that American policymakers confused elections with democracy. Most neoconservative thinkers will argue that stability can be derived from an elected government, which can form based on a declaration of principles that protect individual rights. In the Palestinian territories, things were done backwards. There, we tried to create stability in order to have elections that we hoped would yield a protection of individual rights.

If the U.S. wants to keep its commitment to democracy, we can't merely force elections and then declare victory. Without strong foundations, elections will often weaken, not strengthen, a budding democratic system.

—Marc Goldwein is a junior political science and economics major from Merion, Pa.

Genocide is happening in Sudan, and we can help stop it

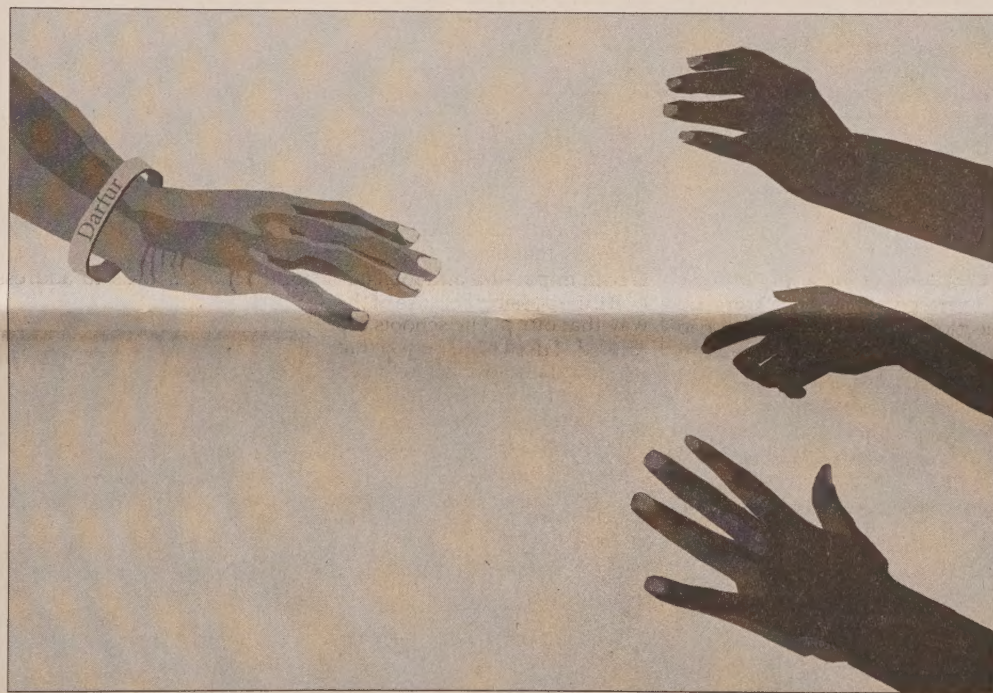
A young girl clutching a water basin steps out of her tent in Kalma, an internally displaced persons camp in the Darfur region of Sudan. She scans

Patrice Hutton

Guest Column

the desert in fear. When her father ventured from the tent to look for water last month, the Janjaweed murdered him. She looks back inside the tent, and her eyes meet her mother's. The woman's face is scarred from the beatings she suffered while being raped while searching for water. This girl fears she'll become the next victim of the Janjaweed, a government-supported militia that is systematically exterminating the Darfurians, but her younger brothers are crying out from dehydration. She must fetch the water.

Here in the United States, the genocide in Darfur has become an event that has little meaning beyond a wristband cause. We recognize yellow is for Lance Armstrong's Livestrong campaign and pink for breast cancer awareness. But a green wristband stands for 400,000 innocent men, women and children dead — and another 2.5 million displaced — in the Darfur region of Sudan. An entire culture is on the verge of extinction, and the United States and United Nations are failing to uphold their promises to end these atrocities.



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

World leaders have repeatedly vowed that we have learned from the Holocaust and will prevent genocide from occurring again. Since the U.S. government's recognition of the crisis in Sudan, it has taken little action. Though the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act (DPAA) passed unanimously in the Senate last December, the final bill was watered down to little more than condemnatory rhetoric.

Last week, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan spoke out in the Washington Post, writing that his organization's hope is to turn the present African Union (AU) force into a U.N. peace op-

eration, given a decision can be reached by the Security Council. This transition would undoubtedly take months. Until then, the AU mission will need as much aid as possible. The U.S. can do their part by restoring the \$50 million in AU aid that was stripped from a bill in the House last fall.

Although U.S. policy is not representative, the truth is, people care. Over 150 organizations have joined the Save Darfur Coalition's "A Million Voices for Darfur: Power to Protect" campaign. Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) chapters have formed at over 200 schools throughout U.S. and Canada.

The sad truth is, that this activism has been ineffective. Students have sported green bracelets, church congregations have prayed, citizens have donated money to humanitarian aid organizations, yet nothing has changed for the daily lives of Darfurians.

While increasing this effort to increase public knowledge of Sudan's plight, we must also focus on compelling our politicians to take real action. As more of the population of Darfur is killed or driven into refugee camps in neighboring Chad, we must transfer this momentum of caring into realistic and forceful legislation.

Amid the drugs, sex and rock 'n roll, intellectualism still thrives

Every young generation has its stereotypes. There were the hippies from the beat generation and the alternative-turned-mainstream kids from the 1990s grunge era. When attempting to characterize an entire age group, clearly some sacrifices toward generalizations must be made. But, for our generation, the characterizations veer off the mark of reality. Too often there are perceptions of us as valuing the shallow more than the deep, *Old School* more than *Citizen Kane*, Britney Spears more than Beethoven.

I see a perfect example of this widespread misconception in Tom Wolfe's popular new novel, *I am Charlotte Simmons*. Given the amount of field research he did for the book, I was appalled with how he presented his collegiate characters. An elite college campus

was no longer a place to foster intellectualism but rather a place where most people were perfectly content as beer-guzzling sexaholics who cared little for other people, unless it involved some story about hooking up or alcohol-fueled antics.

Wolfe acknowledged that there was evidence of life beyond the always-present "cool crowd." No college is complete without its fair share of nerds. However, not even these nerds could care about academia. The male character interested in a Rhodes scholarship thought he was a lot smarter than he actually was, and his quest to stray from the norm and bring fresh ideas and thought back to his university was rather transparent. Yes, I get the message. I see that Wolfe is attempting to show that even among the people who should care about such

stuff, they just aren't what they used to be anymore.

Our generation has been pigeonholed into only what is seen on the surface. I'm not denying the prevalence of excessive drinking, casual sex and a nonchalant attitude toward academics. But I refuse to believe that such activities or mindsets are universal.

Instead, we are a dichotomized generation. There are plenty of chuggers, funnelers and shotgunners. But, these same people are also serious about becoming biomedical engineers, philosophers and politicians. People get drunk one night, but the next night they are up until 4 a.m. having a conversation about the war in Iraq or Nietzsche or stem cells.

People aren't becoming less

intellectual. Instead, their interests have diversified. Our culture of excess may not be a good thing, but it doesn't mean that it is taking over or that it defines us. We are who we choose to be, and at least at Hopkins, there is no shortage of ambition, intelligence or desire to change the world.

Perhaps past generations were able to focus more on intellectual pursuits because there were fewer distractions. People couldn't surf the Internet instead of reading a book or shop online instead of going to a lecture. But just because reading Shakespeare sometimes seems far less appealing than having a cold beer doesn't mean we don't see the value in his writing. It just isn't the only thing on which

we focus. Our brains are not atrophying; they are expanding. We have more to do, to see and to decide. Some of our social choices might not be ones that older generations understand, but those choices do not have to dictate how we think about the world.

Youth culture is not wasting away in our own hangover vomit. We haven't forgotten about intellectualism. Just because I walk to class talking on my cell phone doesn't mean that I don't have a Saul Bellow book in my sorority-lettered bag.

We don't deserve to be depicted in half-light. If people want to understand our generation, then perhaps a seventy-four year old man should not be their source of information.

—Carey Polis is a junior Writing Seminars major from Bethesda, Md.

Carey Polis

Guest Column

SCIENCE

Home of crab cakes tops list of fit cities

By NINA KEYVAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

According to a new survey, your level of fitness may depend on where you live.

A new honor has been bestowed upon Charm City, which has taken many of its residents by surprise. The self-proclaimed "Greatest City in America" has been named the fittest city in America in an annual survey by *Men's Fitness* magazine.

Where the typical fare consists of fried comfort food and beer, many from Baltimore are in disbelief. Charles Village resident Mary Jackson, a regular at the Rocky Run on St. Paul Street, was dining on crab cakes with a side of fries. After suppressing her initial laughter, she remarked, "I think it's unbelievable," she added, "We live on junk food."

Throughout the city, neon advertisements for products such as Domino sugar and Utz potato chips are prominent. Sophomore Jessica Brociek pointed out, "[The ranking] is ironic considering the fact that Baltimore heavily advertises greasy food."

Nevertheless, Baltimore is ahead of cities such as Honolulu (second for two consecutive years) and last year's winner, Seattle (in eighth place).

Chicago received the dubious honor of being the fattest city in America, closely followed by last year's winner, Houston.

This year, *Men's Fitness* used additional factors in judging each city. This explains the sudden leap in Baltimore's ranking. Last year, the city was closer to Houston at number



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

These Baltimore residents stay in good shape by participating in an annual city marathon.

25 in the rankings for fattest city. Typically the most important factors were how much fast food residents were eating, daily commute time and hours spent watching television. The expanded criteria used in this year's rankings included the amount of public park space, access to health care, air quality, the small number of fast food franchises and changes brought about by Mayor Martin O'Malley. In addition, climate was less of an important factor in this year's survey.

While the magazine's editor, Neal Boulton, notes that the survey was not conducted in a scientific manner, he stated in an interview with CNN News, "Baltimore is a paragon of urban renewal. That's why it's the fittest city, that's why it's the comeback city." According to Boulton, the current conditions in Baltimore are proving to be "conducive to fitness." For the last 30 years, conditions have been improving, which allowed Baltimore to climb the list.

However, Brociek had different thoughts. "I've never seen a gym outside of Hopkins and don't know of any safe parks that people have access to," she

claimed.

In another magazine *Men's Health*, Baltimore is ranked 93rd in the list of "100 Best Cities for Men." With grades of "F" in quality of life and health and "C+" in fitness, the city falls far behind San Francisco (the winner) and Honolulu (in second place).

Although Baltimore is becoming safer, many neighborhoods still suffer from poverty and drugs. Residents in these parts usually have no choice but to rely on food from convenience stores and take-out restaurants.

One has to wonder whether the results accurately reflect the fitness of Baltimore's citizens. Sophomore Nancy Tray remarked, "I heard about that, and just thought it was the funniest thing ever. Baltimore? The fittest city? There has got to be something wrong with that survey."

However the mayor remarks in an interview with CNN, "You see some neighborhoods starting to grow again, and attracting younger people. With those younger people coming, there's a number of gyms now." He added, "In every growing neighborhood, you look for two leading signs—one is a gym and the other is a Starbucks."

Heart health highlighted in Feb.

By SANDYA NAIR
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The American Heart Association (AHA) has designated February National Heart Awareness Month in a campaign to encourage individuals to take proactive measures towards a heart-healthy lifestyle.

As a special part of this year's campaign, Feb. 3 is National Wear Red Day, an effort to encourage women to "Go Red," taking precautions against heart disease, which is the number one killer of women in the United States, according to the AHA.

Through the Go Red campaign, the AHA encourages measures for controlling the major risk factors for heart disease: high blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol, physical inactivity, obesity and diabetes. Go Red encourages the following "10 Ways to Take Charge of Your Heart Health."

(List source: American Heart Association)

1. Schedule a yearly check-up. Each year on your birthday, schedule a checkup to have your blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels checked, and ask your doctor to help you reach or maintain a healthy weight.

2. Get physical. Step, march or jog in place for at least 15 minutes a day while watching your favorite TV shows. Increase your activity by five minutes each week until you're getting a minimum of 30 minutes most days of the week.

3. Drink more water.

4. Eat healthy. Keep packages of unhealthy food hidden. Put raw veggies and fruits in front in the refrigerator and healthy snacks in the front of the pantry, so that's what you see first. If you grab healthy foods for a minimum of 21

times, healthy choices will become a habit.

5. Control cholesterol. Eating foods high in saturated fat, trans fat or cholesterol can lead to high blood cholesterol. To help keep your cholesterol levels down, eat foods low in saturated fat and trans fat, such as lean chicken or turkey (roasted or baked, with skin removed), fruits and veggies, low-fat or fat-free dairy products and whole grains.

6. Cut down on salt. To help lower high blood pressure, watch your salt intake.

"Go Red," [takes] precautions against heart disease, which is the number one killer of woman in the United States.

7. Quit smoking.

8. Maintain a healthy weight. Excess weight increases your risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. To achieve steady, painless weight loss, take it easy. Each day, if you eat 200-300 calories less than you would normally consume, and exercise at least 30 minutes on most or all days of the week, you'll get closer to your goal and be able to achieve weight loss that's steady.

9. Stay positive. If you get off your exercise schedule, have a cigarette, or eat a fattening meal, immediately get back on track toward re-establishing a healthy lifestyle.

10. Give yourself credit. To maintain momentum with exercising, losing weight, or quitting smoking, keep track of

your achievements and reward yourself by doing something you enjoy.

Heart disease is a major killer not only among women, but also among men. According to the AHA, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and disability in America.

In fact, elevated stress levels may contribute to the heightened incidence of cardiovascular disease. Many risk factors for cardiovascular disease have stress-related causes. It has been shown that stress can lead to high blood pressure, high cholesterol and behaviors that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease such as smoking or unhealthy eating.

A study in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* from last April indicates that exercise and stress management help patients who have been diagnosed with heart disease.

Patients in the study all received medical care for their heart condition, but one group had an additional exercise program and another group attended a stress management class. After 16 weeks of exercise/stress management, imaging data indicated improvements in blood flow and heart pumping.

The groups who underwent the exercise and stress management programs also had a lower occurrence of depression and emotional distress compared to the group receiving only medical care.

National Heart Awareness month provides a chance to explore and learn about different ways to prevent the risk of heart disease. More information about Heart Awareness and recommendations from the AHA can be found at the American Heart Association's Web site: <http://www.americanheart.org>.

SCIENCE @ HOPKINS

New research hints at pathway to better, faster computers

Computing power will continue to grow each year into the foreseeable future. But as the physical limitations of current technology become more apparent, researchers have begun to search for alternative approaches to ensure ever-faster and more reliable computers.

Random access memory, known by its acronym RAM, provides memory space for a computer. Traditional RAM is based on groups of transistors, each of which controls the flow of electricity and can indicate a binary value of zero or one, the basic units of computing. Unfortunately, transistors can only be packed to

a certain density.

A relatively new type of RAM, called magnetic RAM, or MRAM, accomplishes a similar feat through the manipulation of microscopic magnetic cells. These cells, made of tiny cobalt or nickel rings, are about one millionth the diameter of a human hair. However, the magnetic fields of these rings tend to interfere with each other, which is a major impediment to their usefulness.

Chia-Ling Chien, a professor at the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and his graduate student, Frank Q. Zhu, discovered an elegant method for avoiding this problem. By making the cobalt rings asymmetrical, the amount of magnetic interference between cells is significantly reduced. This is

because the asymmetrical cells are more likely to enter a "vortex state" in which they do not create stray magnetic fields. The results are reported in the Jan. 20 issue of the journal *Physical Review Letters*.

For now, the technology is still in its infant stages, but its potential is enormous. MRAM is able to store much more than a comparable volume of traditional RAM, leaving open the possibility of a dramatic increase in the size of computer memories. Also, unlike traditional RAM, MRAM is non-volatile, meaning it is able to store information even after electricity is cut. This feature may allow for crash-proof computers in the future.

— Stephen Berger

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YOUR NEWS-LETTER

Starting the year smoothly

By **CHRISTINE HIGGINS**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

With spring semester under way, some of us have been having a hard time pulling our heads back from sunny beaches, snow-topped mountains and comfy couches. The stress and strain of Hopkins' workload is enough to set even the most dedicated students back a few steps. And others among us are in desperate need of a miracle in order to drag that good ol' GPA back into reasonable shape. Whatever your academic needs at the beginning of this semester, the Office of Academic Advising has a few helpful hints to get you straight A's — or at least off academic probation.

Getting Sleep

"The most important part of doing well is going to class," said Angela Ruddle, academic coordinator for the study consultant program. "After that, you should get enough sleep!"

Sleep is not a negotiable point. Much to Hopkins' dismay we are all mere mortals who need sleep to function effectively. Two big tips for increasing the quantity and quality of your sleeping habits are regular exercises and being intelligent when drinking. Exercise is an excellent booster and improves your attentiveness during the day. It also makes it easier to sleep at night.

Alcohol does make you black out, but passing out drunk doesn't leave you well rested. So if you have an exam next week then you should lay off the cheap vodka and beer.



TURSINA ABDUL-RASHID/NEWS-LETTER
Students busily rush to classes through the Breezeway as the new semester starts off.

Managing Time

"Time management is a huge part of academic success," said academic advisor Adriene Breckenridge. "Everyone should get a timer for Facebook. I know students waste hours on Facebook. Get an egg timer and set it for just 20, 30 minutes, whatever. Use Facebook as a reward for finishing your work."

Breckenridge plans to hold a workshop called "Do It Right in the New Year," during which she will "help you assess your needs and develop a personal plan for success." The workshop will be held twice this month, on Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. in Hodson 311 and Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. in Hodson 305.

Also, both Breckenridge and Ruddle emphasized the importance of organization in students' lifestyles. Breckenridge suggested buying a calendar and, at the beginning of term, marking down all the major exams and papers in advance, as well as extracurricular commitments. This way, when the last week of April rolls around, students can see where their commitments are, and then they have time to relax, sleep and have fun, which are all good times, too!

Finding Social Outlets

Ruddle commented that so-

cial outlets are also extremely important. A group of friends with whom you can just relax and have fun is a necessity. They serve as stress relievers, allowing us to enjoy our college life.

Tips for Freshmen

Some sound advice for freshmen is to come and see your first semester grades. Now that the heat is on and our grades show up on transcripts, it is vital to know where and how you went wrong when the pressure was low.

Additionally, Breckenridge stressed the need for daylight studying. "College is the only time in your life where you are full time, but not really full time." Students take for granted that we only attend class a few hours a day and seem to have the mentality from high school that studying is a nighttime activity. By pushing the study time forward, students can have more time to sleep.

Finally, it is imperative that students who need help seek it. "All too often, pride gets in the way of getting help," Ruddle said. The Office of Academic Advising always has its doors open to assist students. Its Web site, <http://www.advising.jhu.edu> also has some more great ideas on how to manage college life.

YOUR GADGETS

••••• New and Improved •••••
— compiled by Jessica Rebarber

Although spring semester has arrived, the warm weather (besides the anomalous days we've recently had) has yet to appear. What to do to make the time move more quickly? Invest in some fun and innovative gadgets for you and your apartment of course! We've picked a handful of items that you just can't miss for the new year.

POPCORN POPPER

The Vermont Country Store, \$22.95

<http://www.vermontcountrystore.com>

Tired of microwave popcorn bags? A healthier way to eat your favorite snack is making it with an air popper. Just add kernels, plug in and wait for a few minutes while it pops. It'll definitely be your best company when you watch those DVDs in your room.

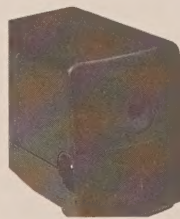


ELECTRIC PENCIL SHARPENER

Overstock Outlet Shopping, \$33.19

<http://www.overstock.com>

If you haven't taken a liking to pens and prefer old-fashioned No. 2 pencils, you may be in the market for an electric pencil sharpener. Relatively easy to find, they provide an efficient method of sharpening.



ELECTRIC SOAP DISPENSER

eShopHere, \$39.95

<http://www.eshophere.com>

Tired of touching your soap dispenser with dirty hands? Have a few extra bucks burning a hole in your pocket? Then it's definitely time to invest in an electric soap dispenser, be the coolest (and cleanest) kid on the floor!

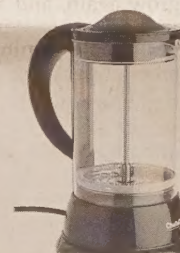


ELECTRIC FRENCH PRESS

Amazon, \$69.95

<http://www.amazon.com>

Those of you who like the concept of a French press but don't have the time to wait for that cup of coffee each time, you'll come to love the electric version of the classic. Safe and fast to use, Chef's Choice boils a quart of water in just four minutes. It'll come in handy when work piles in.



PORTABLE PLAYSTATION (PSP)

BestBuy, \$249.99

<http://www.bestbuy.com>

This is the newest item in the PlayStation series. Boasting games, music, Internet connections, photos and video capabilities, the PSP is a gamers' revolution. With something for everyone, the PSP is bound to make you happy and provides another legitimate reason not to do your homework.



Last day to ...

return books to the bookstore without a registration slip Feb. 3

add a course Feb. 10

drop in-person without a "W" Mar. 10

drop online without a "W" Mar. 12

drop in-person with a "W" Mar. 31

your dates

your say

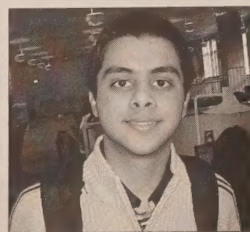
How do you feel about being back on campus after a six-week break?

"Well, this semester, the stress of making friends is gone but now we have the stress of grades."



CATHERINE DERBES
Freshman, history

"I guess I'm excited to see friends, worried about the workload and not looking forward to the cafeteria food."



DAVID POULOSE
Public health, sophomore

"It sucks. I just want to go home."



MATT SINN
History/political science, junior

"I'm not too happy about coming back. I feel really limited here. I don't have a car and public transportation is basically nonexistent."



JESSICA LEE
Writing Seminars/English, junior

— compiled by Natalie Baer

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SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
MATT GRIFFIN, BASKETBALL

Griffin soars above his opponents

By DREW LEFKOF
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Matt Griffin became adept at beating his defenders down low before ever hitting the hardwood. The junior forward/center said that he first learned the game of basketball on his own driveway, scrimmaging against his father.

"We basically started playing when I was first able to walk," Griffin said. "In the summer, he would come home from work and anytime I asked him, he would play with me. I can't remember a time that he would say no."

Griffin credits his driveway scrimmages for allowing him to develop as a player, in terms of toughness and skill.

"I definitely see the benefits of one-on-one play. There were times when we would play with different rules in which different shots counted for different point values because he wanted me to get better," he said.

Griffin also learned and

honed his hook shot, one of his most dangerous shots, under his father's driveway tutelage.

"It was my dad's favorite move and he encouraged me to practice it until I got it right. 'Oh, that's ugly, try again,' he would say when I was still refining it. Now, its one of the most important shots I can use as a post player," Griffin said.

Griffin also said that finally beating his dad on the driveway brought him great satisfaction as a youth.

"We would usually play the best of three games and he would almost always beat me," he said. "When I finally beat him, he was great about it and was proud for me. I was pretty happy afterwards because it showed how I improved as

VITAL
STATISTICS

Name: Matt Griffin
Height: 6' 7"
Major: Psychology

Hopkins Highlights:
Scored 23 points in the second half against Washington College.



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

in just 20 minutes of play.

"Most of the baskets came from getting great passes and being in good position. I got credit with the points, but the hard part was done by my teammates beating their man and leaving me open down low. It takes much more than one guy to score a basket," he said.

Griffin's presence was evident against Salisbury on Nov. 18, as he pulled down six rebounds while contributing two assists in 29 playing minutes. Despite playing a critical role in the paint, he mentioned that the Blue Jays are also blessed with a surplus of depth, which explains their current overall record of 14-4.

"We've had numerous close games and it's never just one guy responsible for reeling in a victory," he said. "There are probably nine to ten guys playing big minutes for us this year. It gives us a lot of balance, which is a very good thing."

He added that the roster also sports a loose group of guys, illustrated by their eagerness to imitate highlight reel dunks.

"One time, we saw a highlight film with this one crazy dunk, in which the player moved through sideways and turned to lay it in. No one could imitate that," he said.

While he doesn't have time to watch much NBA action, he said that he appreciates the play of Tim Duncan and a few others.

"Duncan has great fundamentals and makes excellent use of the backboard. I love watching him run the court," he said. "I also appreciated the play of Ron Artest in one All-Star game. He was the only one out there hustling and playing defense. It was nice to see that."

Fun and imitations aside, he said that the ultimate goal is to come away with a conference title and possible NCAA tournament berth.

"The obvious goal is to win conferences and possibly gain a berth to the March tournament. You can put any cliché in here, but we need to win Centennials in order to make some noise out there," he said.

While experiencing much success, Griffin said that he is most happy about being able to play college basketball.

"I remember times earlier in my life, like in eighth grade, when I made the team and played barely a minute per game. Sometimes, I never even got to play at all in some games," he said. "So that's my motivation to keep playing hard and to enjoy myself out there."

Swimming makes splash at home

By CLAIRE KOEHLER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

For the Johns Hopkins swim team, winter break was anything but a time for relaxation, as both the men and the women competed in three meets in January.

This past weekend, the Blue Jays defeated host Washington & Lee, adding another successful meet to an already strong season. The men won 146-115, while the women conquered W & L with a score of 156-103.

In their other two January meets, both Hopkins squads lost to West Chester and North Carolina, two competitive programs.

"At Washington & Lee, our teams had a very good performance," said head coach George Kennedy. "At West Chester we swam a bit better than we had at North Carolina when our team was tired, and performed accordingly."

But even after enduring a rigorous training trip in Florida just before the UNC meet, seniors Zane Hamilton and Sean Kim, freshman John Kegelman and senior Katie Herbst turned in top times.

"The men's team has been doing a great job training," said Hamilton. "We have really been working our chests a lot, and it has been paying off for us. I don't think there is a team in Division III that can out bench-press us."

"We're going this weekend to swim at Kenyon, the 26-year reigning Division III champions, and I think all the hard work we've put in will show," he said.

At Washington & Lee, Hopkins had eight first place finishes in 14 events on the men's side. Sophomore Ryan Kim won both the 200-yard backstroke and the 200-yard IM. Joining Ryan Kim in the winner's circle for the 200-yard medley relay were seniors Tyler Harris and Brian Sneed, as well as sophomore Brad Test.

Harris also won the 200-yard breaststroke in 2:12.80. Test won his own individual event in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 47.72.

The other first-place finishes for the Blue Jays were accomplished by freshman Colin Klinguett in the 1000-yard freestyle, junior Keith Parent in the 200-yard butterfly and Hamilton in the 100-yard breaststroke.

For the women, the meet at Washington & Lee was their last dual meet of the season before the Centennial and NCAA Championships. The men's last dual meet will come at Kenyon this weekend.

"The Washing & Lee women's team is known to be on the weaker side, so our team swam a 'B' lineup in order to help even out the scores," said junior Kelly Robinson. "Each girl stepped up to the blocks knowing they were not swimming their main

events, and yet so many had amazing swims in events they have never swam before or very rarely swim," she said.

Hopkins had 11 first-place finishes in the 14 events and impressively had three individuals win two different events.

Herbst won both the 100-yard and 200-yard butterfly events. Freshman Kristin Cunningham placed first in both the 1000-yard freestyle and the 200-yard breaststroke, and her classmate, Elissa Stautner, won the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle.

"Since this was not one of our toughest meets we were able to stretch everyone's comfort level," said senior Stephanie Leaman.

Seniors Jessica Chang and Kalei Walker took the 100-yard breaststroke and 50-yard freestyle, respectively. Freshman Kate Hansen won the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:16.89. Hopkins also won both the 200-yard medley relay in a time of 1:54.66 and the 200-yard freestyle relay in a time of 1:43.45.

"[The Blue Grass Invitational] is where our girls will be making their national cuts, so most people on the team will be shaved and tapered for the meet," said Robinson. The men will compete against powerhouse Kenyon in Ohio this weekend while the women will rest up for the Blue Grass Invitational on Feb. 16-18.



TURSINA ABDUL-RASHID/NEWS-LETTER

Foils face off at the Goldfarb Gym on Jan. 29. The Jays beat all five teams at the tourney.

Men's fencing sweeps the
Johns Hopkins Invitational

Continued from Page A12
Philadelphia to square off against some of the toughest teams they face this season at the Jan. 22 University of Pennsylvania Invitational.

The men emerged winless from contests against Penn (17-10), Haverford (15-12), North Carolina (14-13) and Rutgers (21-6), with their record dropping precipitously from 12-6 to 12-10.

But the weekend was not without its bright spots. The men performed especially well in the foil, beating both Rutgers and North Carolina 5-4. Despite Hopkins' getting swept, much of the Jays' intersession training was apparent and proved valuable.

During intersession, while most Hopkins' students were sleeping until late in the afternoon and watching reruns of Seinfeld, the fencing team made it a goal of theirs to increase stamina, work on drilling, perfect their form, and practice bout.

"I think intersession gave us

three weeks to do the things we hadn't done earlier in the season," said Einsiedler.

The team's drastic improvement to their approach and form has been evident, even in their losses.

After being outright beaten by North Carolina in an 18-9 loss at the Northwestern Invitational on Nov. 11, the Jays came within inches of defeating the Tar Heels during their second meeting last weekend, falling 14-13.

Some of the most valuable components of this late spree of wins include Einsiedler in the foil, Sophomore Aaron Fernandes in the saber, Freshman Max Mealy in the epee, Junior Tom Fellows in the epee, and Senior Jason Park in the saber.

On tap next for the Jays is the much-anticipated Duke Invitational on Feb. 10 in Durham, North Carolina. There the Jays will really see how far they've come and how much more work they need to do in order to make a return trip to the NCAA Fencing Championships.

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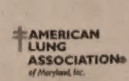
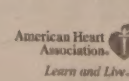
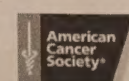
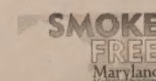
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SPORTS

Track teams fare well vs. Centennial squads

By ZACH GOODMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The solid performances by the men's and women's track and field teams this past weekend can attest to one thing for sure — the benefits of picking on someone your own size.

After starting off 2006 with two highly competitive meets against strong Division I programs, the Jays took it down a notch on Friday, facing off against four other Division III teams at the Franklin & Marshall Diplomat Invitational.

The field included Centennial Conference rivals Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg and Dickinson, as well as nearby Juniata.

The Jays had 15 men and five women place in the top five of their event, despite the fact that several members of the team sat out in order to rest up for next weekend's Christopher Newport Invitational.

"We came back from Inter-session with some very high-caliber meets which really forced us to work hard during the winter break," head coach Bobby Can Allen said. "We have a couple big meets in the next two weeks with CNU and Boston, which should really prepare us to compete well at the Centennial Conference Championships at the end of the month." Following the meet at Christopher Newport, the Jays will send a select group of athletes to the St. Valentine Invite at Boston University.

The men's team set the tone for the meet in the very first event, with senior Gabe Tonkin, freshman Drew Lefkof, senior Jason Farber and freshman Dan Pike taking second through fifth place, in that order, in the 5,000-meter.

Sophomores Tristan Thomas and Chris Cottrell, who were classmates at John McEachern

High School in Powder Springs, Ga., led the way for the sprinters. Cottrell won the 200-meter dash in a time of 23.68, while Thomas won the 55-meter dash with 6.7 seconds. Thomas' time put him just ahead of Cottrell, who finished third in the race, running 6.73.

Cottrell also placed third in the long jump, leaping 20'5".

The 4 x 400-meter relay team of sophomores Jason Hortiat, James Bronson, Jeff Neal and freshman Joe Lefkowitz took second place in the meet, in a time of 3:37.64.

Freshman Matt Trachtenberg set a personal best mark in the pole vault for an impressive fourth-straight week, vaulting 13'6" to capture fourth place. Clearly, Trachtenberg hasn't had a hard time adjusting to his new team — his vaulting put him just 7.25" shy of Brian Nichols' freshman record, set in 2000.

"The team seemed sort of overwhelmingly big at first, like it would be really hard to get to know everyone," he said. "But everyone is really friendly so it's working out."

While Cottrell's success in three events earned him Coach Van Allen's Athlete of the Meet Award, an honorary track baton that he presents after every meet, the winner on the women's side excelled in four events.

Sophomore Becky Lossing, who competes in the heptathlon in the spring, had two personal best jumps, taking second place in the triple jump with 32'8.5" and 4'8" in the high jump, good for seventh place. She also placed fourth in the long jump with 14'11" and took 11th place in the 400-meter, running 74.1.

"It felt good to get back into it and actually get quality marks down," she said.

The women's squad also had a freshman perform well in



COURTESY OF SAM OLESKY
Senior Gabe Tonkin placed second in the 5,000-meters at the F & M Invitational.

the pole vault, as Lauren Chun vaulted 9'6" in the pole vault. Two weekends ago, Chun set not only the school record, but also the Centennial Conference record in the pole vault, by clearing 10'4" at the Terrapin Invitational in Landover, Md.

Sophomore Jessica Reeves placed fourth in the pole vault with 9'. Chun and Reeves currently are ranked No. 1 and No. 3 in the Centennial Conference.

"Our vaulters are progressing well," said assistant coach Norm Ayen. "It's been tough with limited indoor facilities, but I like the progress I've seen. I feel that once we can correct some form faults, there's no limit to how high our vaulters will go."

The Lady Jays also received an impressive tandem performance by senior Joanna Cohen and sophomore Alison Grant, whose times of 8.08 and 8.19 were good for third and fourth place in the 55-meters, respectively.

The next meet for Hopkins will be this Friday and Saturday at Christopher Newport College, in Newport News, Va.

Floyd wins meet for wrestling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
disconcerting."

But Schmidt didn't stay unnerved for long, and it was no time before Scuba Steve was sunk.

"After I took him down in the first period and put him on his back, I felt the match was won," Schmidt said.

The match was, in fact, won, as Schmidt maintained his lead until the last buzzer, taking the match 6-4 for the Jays' first win of the day. But they were still down in team points 7-3.

It only took one more match to change that. Another freshman, heavyweight Vince Domestico, stepped onto the mat for one of the day's difference-making matches. Domestico

had seen his opponent, Keith English, earlier this season and put him on his back.

"[Junior 133-pounder] Jimmy Van Daniker told me, 'Just pin him again, no pressure,'" Domestico said. The advice was all he needed, and Domestico recorded the only pin for either team, putting the Jays up 9-7.

After freshman Mike Sumner suffered a technical fall at 125 pounds, the Jays got right back on track. Van Daniker, junior co-captain Marco Priolo and sophomore Jim Crumlish reeled off three consecutive decisions at 133, 141 and 149 respectively.

Freshman 157-pounder Avi Dunn took a major-decision

loss, giving the Green Terror 16 points to Hopkins' 18. The team scores were within three with only one match left to wrestle. The next seven minutes were the difference between a win and a loss for both teams.

Enter Chris Floyd. Floyd, a freshman 165-pounder, has been one of the bright spots in the Jays' lineup all season. After this match, the spot got that much brighter.

"To even be that close was surprising," Floyd said. "I didn't want to let the team down." But what was most impressive about Floyd's 9-7 victory was not that it was secured in the last seconds of the match, or that it was accomplished by a freshman in the highest-pressure match of the year. There was something even more incredible here.

"Floyd got a concussion and still won the match," Priolo said.

At the beginning of the third period against McDaniel's Courtney Nightengale, Floyd took a hit to the head with more than half the period to go.

"I guess I was a little out of it," Floyd said.

But even while out of it, Floyd stayed in it long enough to hear the last buzzer of the day. Hopkins 21, McDaniel 16.

The win brought the Jays' record to 5-7 overall and 2-2 in the Centennial Conference. In a season plagued with injuries, such as the season-ending shoulder injury to junior co-captain and 197-pounder Jonathon Freeman, the McDaniel win was a chance to showcase the team's future, and with the Centennial Conference tournament around the corner, its present.

"I think it's pretty sweet that the freshmen were able to step up," Domestico said. "I expect the team is only going to get better from here. We're going to bring it for the conference tournament."

The Jays continue their homestand on Sunday at noon against Washington & Lee College.

W. b'ball hopes to host conference championships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
improving her team-leading free throw percentage to 80.2 percent.

Senior guard/forward Katie Kimball had a stellar performance, filling the stat sheet with 10 points, 12 rebounds, four blocks, and a team-high four assists. The double-double is Kimball's first this season.

Senior forward Amanda Leese and freshman forward Kristin Phillips each posted eight points for the Blue Jays, while junior guard Haley Wjowski collected seven points and the only three-pointer for the Blue Jays, who were only able to hit 1-of-18 from behind the arc.

Despite a lackluster three-point shooting effort and overall field goal percentage, the Blue Jays collected more boards and forced more turnovers to stymie the Garnet Tide. The Blue Jays amassed 45 rebounds to Swarthmore's 41 and only gave up 13 turnovers to Swarth-

more's 18.

The Blue Jays have six games remaining this season, five of which are against Centennial Conference opponents. The Jays have already defeated four of those five conference opponents and have yet to play the fifth, Gettysburg College. The Blue Jays lead the Centennial Conference by half a game over Muhlenberg College, who has a 12-2 conference record and 17-2 overall record.

With such a solid conference record, the Jays have some understandably lofty goals for the postseason.

"Obviously, we have to win out to be able to host [the Centennial Conference Tournament]," Funk said. "So, that's basically what we're playing for but believe that we are in every game that's left here."

The Blue Jays return to action this Saturday against Haverford College at 2 p.m. at Goldfarb Gymnasium, capping a four-game homestand.

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SPORTS

Did You Know?

After turning in a 40-point performance on Tuesday, Lakers guard Kobe Bryant brought his points-per-game average for January to 43.4. Bryant is just the second player in NBA history to average 40 points in a month more than once, the first being Wilt Chamberlain. Elgin Baylor is the only other player to have accomplished the feat even once.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

W. Basketball vs. Haverford 2 p.m.
M. Basketball vs. Haverford 4 p.m.

SUNDAY

Wrestling vs. Washington & Lee 12 p.m.

W. b'ball streaks to four straight wins

By DAVID NGUYEN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Hopkins women's basketball team improved to 12-1 in the Centennial Conference and 15-4 overall with a 66-58 victory over Swarthmore College Tuesday night.

The Blue Jays, riding a four-game winning streak, held off the Garnet Tide to sweep the season series and to lead the overall series 18-9. The last time these teams met, in late November, the Jays slipped past the Garnet Tide with a 60-57 victory.

The Blue Jays' aggressive offense inside the paint was able to draw 19 fouls on the night, helping to fuel more than a third of Hopkins' overall offense. The Blue Jays hit 23 free throws compared to the Garnet Tide's 15, helping them to secure the eight-point victory.

Despite the win, head coach Nancy Funk wasn't entirely pleased with the way her team played.

"We have to play a little more consistently on defense and make better decisions on offense," she said.

Swarthmore, who had lost five of their last eight games

heading into this contest, fell behind by as many as 13 points in the first half.

Senior guard Katie O'Malley hit a jumper to secure a 38-25 Blue Jay lead, but Swarthmore closed the gap in the second half with sensational defensive play.

The Garnet Tide held the Blue Jays to 22.2 percent shooting in the second half, and only allowed 26 points compared to the 40 they let up in the first half.

Sophomore center Karen Berk guided the Garnet Tide to within three points after scoring off a layup to set the score at 59-56 with 2:03 remaining in the game.

Berk had 22 points for the game, nearly doubling the second-highest scorer's point total for Swarthmore. Berk also amassed 11 rebounds for her third double-double this year.

The Blue Jays were able to counter Berk's outstanding performance with solid team play, collecting at least seven points from five different players. Junior forward Julie Miller led the way for the Jays with 20 points on the night, hitting 10 of 13 from the free throw line,

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11



WILLIAM PARSCHALK/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman guard Scott Weisenfeld chipped in five assists and eight points, shooting six-for-six from the line, in the Blue Jays' 85-81 win over Washington. The Jays are 14-4 this season.

Men's basketball bounces back to defeat Shoremen

By JOHN MONAGAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Coming into the week tied with Ursinus for first place in the Centennial Conference, the Hopkins men's basketball team was able to follow up their worst loss of the season with perhaps their best win.

Last Wednesday, the Blue Jays traveled to Gettysburg College, where the Bullets handed Hopkins a 58-41 loss. The loss dropped the Blue Jays into sole possession of second place and primed them for a weekend match-up against the team biting at their heels, the No. 3 team in the conference, the Washington College Shoremen.

The Blue Jays used a strong second half by junior forward/center Matt Griffin to hold off a

late Shoremen surge and pulled off an 87-83 win. The Blue Jays ran their record to 14-4 overall and 10-2 in Centennial Conference play.

Gettysburg (10-8, 6-5) used a slow-down, Princeton offense to confuse the Blue Jays defensively and retard their offensive flow. The Blue Jays shot a season-low 33.3 percent from the field. Combined with the Jays' 23 turnovers, it isn't hard to see how a team that averages almost 80 points a game was held to only 41.

While there weren't many players who stood out for the Blue Jays (Griffin stated that it was a game in which "we looked at the tape after, and talked about the game, and we realized that not one player on the team played well"), junior forward Dan Nawrocki and Griffin both tallied double-digit point totals, with 13 and 11 respectively.

Coach Bill Nelson character-

ized the effort as a complete collapse both offensively and defensively, as nothing that had worked for the Blue Jays thus far in the season worked against the Bullets.

"We just got away from everything we do well offensively in the Gettysburg game," Nelson said. "We didn't come to play, and we quit working hard. [The coaching staff] prepared the kids to defend against the three-point shot, but we didn't get any help inside."

The effort at Gettysburg may have provided the Blue Jays with a wake-up call, however, as not many teams have challenged Hopkins in Centennial Conference play.

Perhaps a realization hit the players that the ball won't go in the basket by itself, and that no team is safe from an upset, especially when playing in a hostile environment. The Blue Jays certainly seemed to have learned their lesson when they

played host to an energized Washington College team just three days later.

The Shoremen came out hot early on, with senior Jonathan Webb knocking down some long-range shots to give Washington the early lead. However, in spite of foul trouble to senior guards Bobby Sharafeddin and Jeff Thompson and junior Griffin, the Blue Jays were able to scrap their way back to a seven-point lead at halftime.

Coach Bill Nelson used his bench well to defend against the run-and-gun offense of the Shoremen. Junior Chris Morley, sophomore guards Doug Polster and Terrance Coppola and freshman guard Scott Weisenfeld all got significant playing time in the first half and carried the Blue Jays to their halftime lead.

The second half was the Matt Griffin Show for Hopkins. Washington held the big man scoreless in the first half, but were helpless as soon as play resumed. The undersized Shoremen could only look on as Griffin used a variety of post moves and a 10-for-11 shooting to score 23 points in the second half.

The Blue Jays gave the packed Goldfarb Gymnasium a scare, however, as they allowed an 18 point lead to dwindle to as little as a three-point margin in the final minutes. However, they received a clutch free throw from Morley in the waning seconds to clinch the game and provide the Blue Jays with a four point victory.

Coach Nelson's team recovered from the letdown on Wednesday to gain a big win on Saturday, and Nelson could not have been happier to see his team regain some momentum. His junior big men led the effort with Griffin's 23, Nawrocki collecting 16, and Morley grabbing 10 rebounds to go along with his eight points.

"Matt [Griffin] and Dan [Nawrocki] together inside are phenomenal," Nelson said after the game. "It is important to not forget the work that Chris [Morley] does for the team. He leads the team in rebounds per minute played, and he shouldn't take a backseat to either of our two starters. It is important for us to get great production inside, and today we did."

The Blue Jays complete a three-game homestand with games Wednesday night at 7 p.m. against Swarthmore and Saturday at 4 p.m. against Haverford.



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Junior guard Haley Wojdowski (left) had 12 points in the Jan. 24 game against Washington.

INSIDE

Both swimming squads beat W & L at home

The men's and women's swimming teams are both clearly peaking at the right time. After dropping two straight meets, both squads beat Washington & Lee at home. **Page A10.**

Track teams excel against Centennial rivals

Fifteen men and five women from Hopkins placed in the top five at the Franklin & Marshall Invitational. Three other Centennial squads were at the meet. **Page A11.**

Griffin explodes for 23 points in the second half

Junior center/forward Matt Griffin led the men to victory over Washington College on Saturday. His standout performance earned him this issue's Athlete of the Week. **Page A10.**

Wrestling wins in a thriller, thanks to frosh

By ZACH GOODMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Hopkins wrestling hasn't beaten McDaniel since 1995, dropping 10 years' worth of matches starting when McDaniel was still called Western Maryland. And this year, McDaniel is a powerhouse, ranked No. 27 in the nation and nearly doubled the Blue Jays' team total at this year's Messiah Invitational, with 83 points to take the top spot while Hopkins amassed 43 points for fifth place.

Beating Hopkins is as natural as breathing for McDaniel. In this season's dual meet, the Jays shouldn't have stood a chance.

But no one told the freshmen that.

Without the harsh history lessons in their memory, the Blue Jay freshmen led the young team to a stunning upset

victory over the Green Terror at home on Jan. 27 by a score of 21-16, capping a nail-biting day where the final outcome was up in the air until the end of the last match. The win came as quite a shock for the older members of the team.

"Something came together, but I have no idea what it is," said senior co-captain and 174-pounder Dave Kraus. "It was a huge step for the program." Kraus, the team's only four-year veteran, has seen enough of McDaniel and enough of his opponent in 174-pound class to understand what the team accomplished. The Terror's 174-pounder, Tony Howard, is ranked No. 2 in the nation at 165 pounds but bumped up to wrestle Kraus.

"He's from my county," said Kraus. "In high school he had undefeated records while I was wrestling JV." Kraus faced off against Howard in the first

match of the day and took a hard-fought 12-3 loss, but he followed the age-old advice of saving every point he could. Neither Kraus nor any other Blue Jay got pinned by the Terror, conserving Hopkins' much-needed points in a meet determined by only five.

After sophomore 184-pounder Eric Fishel took another tough loss, it was up to the team's youngest members to start to turn the day around. And they did just that.

Still looking for a win, the Jays sent freshman 197-pounder Tyler Schmidt to face McDaniel's Steve Jennings, a senior and one of the most experienced wrestlers on their roster. Schmidt was a bit put off by the buzz surrounding Jennings and his peculiar nickname.

"All I heard was his friends yelling 'Go Scuba Steve!'" said Schmidt. "It was really

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

Fencers recover from road losses to win five

By MATTHEW MURRAY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

How does the men's fencing team cheer up after losing four meets in a row? By winning five.

After a rough weekend which included four losses to the likes of Haverford, North Carolina, Rutgers and Penn, the Jays rebounded this past weekend to claim victories against all five of their opponents at the Johns Hopkins Invitational, the team's only five home meets of the season.

On the list of defeated contingents were William & Mary (21-6), NJIT (26-1), Virginia (21-6), St. John's (22-5) and Virginia Tech (17-10). The wins mark the second consecutive year in which Hopkins defeated all five teams.

It was indeed a crucial weekend, as the young team regained their swagger and improved to a solid record of 17-10.

"We really needed to win. The weekend before was without a doubt the toughest competition we had faced all season and our first action in a while, but thankfully all of our condition, drilling, and bouting paid off," said freshman foil Jimmy

Einsiedler, "All we needed to do was adjust to our opponents and trust in ourselves."

That trust and adjustment allowed the team to recover from what could have been a confidence-shattering weekend. Immediately after Inter-session, the Jays headed to

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



TURSIQA ABDUL-RASHID/NEWS-LETTER

Fencers fight for position at the Johns Hopkins Invitational Tournament last Sunday.

THE B SECTION

Focus • Features • Arts & Entertainment • Calendar • Cartoons • Photo Essay

FEBRUARY 2, 2006

Transamerica

By ALEX BEGLEY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

When it comes to commercial films the pickings are slim. Over the past year we've been forced to spend our precious \$8 on every teeny-bopper remake that Lindsay Lohan and Hilary Duff could get their hands on. Things were looking bleak. But never fear, fans, *Transamerica* has arrived.

The plot is an old one: A father and his son embark on a cross-country road trip and find common ground somewhere in between. The new spin on *Transamerica* is that it is about a transexual and his newly-discovered 17-year old son son.

Sabrina, also called Bree (exquisitely delivered by Felicity Huffman of *Desperate Housewives* fame), is a man that is about to take his final step toward what he feels is complete womanhood.

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Three Movies & AN OSCAR

A set of new films hits
the big screen and, if
they're lucky,
the podium at the
Academy Awards.

Match Point

By PATRICK KENNEDY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

After three and a half decades of churning out quirky, cosmopolite comedies, Woody Allen has decided that it's time to try something different. Maybe the chorus of critics begging the once-hallowed director to abandon his over-worn Manhattan motifs finally became intolerable. Or maybe, realizing that his last half dozen films have ranged from boringly good-natured (see *Melinda and Melinda*) to annoyingly unwatchable (see *Small Time Crooks*), the 70-year-old movie man has been struck by a late-life crisis. But whatever the reason, Allen has traded in his habitual satire for suspense, leaving behind 40-something New York for the young cast and London streets of his new film, *Match Point*.

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Brokeback Mountain

By PATRICK KENNEDY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

It is never easy to unveil the true worth of a cultural phenomenon. Once any piece of art has been surrounded by the buzz of debate and the drone of publicity, even the most astute critics are hard pressed to effectively hear the original merits of the work. In the worst cases (*Titanic* comes to mind) rapid popularity can turn a project into a bundle of clichés, a mindless entry in the mass culture dictionary. But for the best films, not even the glare of the media is enough to cheapen the essence of their greatness.

I had feared that the worse of these fates would befall director Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain*, the unconventional Western commonly referred to as the "gay cowboy movie" even before it hit theaters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B6

The Nominees to Watch

Will they win? It's anyone's
guess. Here are some notable
contenders in the race.

BEST PICTURE - *CAPOTE*

A lingering tour de force that says more about the collision of art, obsession, and modern iniquity than anything else this season.

BEST DIRECTOR - GEORGE CLOONEY, *GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK*

Also up for his honest supporting role in *Syriana*, perhaps nobody has done more to put a socially engaged but recognizably human face on recent indie film.

BEST ACTOR - TERENCE HOWARD, *HUSTLE AND FLOW*

Entirely captivating as the slick pimp-turned-rapper who propels *Hustle and Flow*, he made a Cinderella from the 'hood story work.

BEST ACTRESS - KEIRA KNIGHTLEY, *PRIDE & PREJUDICE*

The lifeblood and leading lady of a surprisingly artful Jane Austin adaptation. Period piece acting doesn't get more endearing.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - PAUL GIAMATTI, *CINDERELLA MAN*

A well appreciated shot of anxious wit and moral ambiguity in Ron Howard's boxing biopic. Giamatti might finally be on his way to the credit he deserves.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - CATHERINE KEENER, *CAPOTE*

A habitually underrecognized actress, Keener plays a friend and foil to the outlandish Capote, and she brings a pitch-perfect model of dramatic candor.



RUSH FOCUS

Slow down! Why is everyone rushing?

By SAM ENGEL
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The beginning of the spring semester welcomes an exciting opportunity here at Hopkins — RUSH!

The selection process of the University's Greek organizations can feel both inviting and intimidating, but don't let your nervousness get the best of you — rush can be a once in a lifetime experience and most everyone agrees: It is a lot of fun.

If you are interested in rush but are not quite sure what you are getting yourself into, familiarizing yourself with the process can be helpful and encouraging.

The rush process is slightly different for sororities and fraternities, but also they share much in common.

The fraternity rush process begins with an informational meeting for all interested people on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion. Fraternity rush will continue through Feb. 17.

There are 11 fraternities at Hopkins, and throughout the rush period, each will have its own schedule of special rush of events.

These events are open to everyone and announced publicly. Many fraternities have a bowling night or wings night, but generally the themes of the parties vary from one fraternity to the next.

At these events, potential new members can meet and have the opportunity to become acquainted with the fraternity brothers in a laid back social environment. Boys interested in joining a fraternity are free to go to any of these events.



Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority sisters, dressed in formal black attire, take a break during the final of four rush parties, Preference Night.

The point of the process is not to show your loyalty to one organization; rather, it is important to peruse your various options and make the best choice for yourself.

Isaac Katz, a sophomore and a member of the Alpha Epsilon Phi fraternity, remembers that rush was a good time to "get to interact one on one with the brothers and also with other freshmen."

Chris Dorbian, also a sophomore in Alpha Epsilon Phi, remarks that these events were,

"welcoming, very comfortable."

After rush, the fraternity brothers hand out bids to those that they wish to have in their new pledge class. The person who receives the bid can choose to accept it, at which point he becomes a pledge of that fraternity.

While the Inter-Fraternity Council consists of 11 fraternities, there are four Greek sororities at Hopkins that make up the Panhellenic Council. Because of this small number, the rush process for girls is unique.

Sorority rush begins with an informational meeting at which interested girls can register for recruitment. It is also possible to register on the Greek life Web site.

Sorority Rush consists of a series of four events or "parties," beginning with Ice Water.

Each of the four events takes place on a different night, and on these nights each sorority has its own room. There are dress codes for each event, and they increase in formality with each round of parties.

Girls who are rushing are divided into groups, which then go around to each of the four parties for a specific amount of time.

After Ice Water, each soror-

ity has the first of two "theme" parties. The themes vary and are reflected in the decorations, food and presentations given at the party.

After each party, the sisters of the sorority select who they will invite back to their next party, while potential new members narrow down which parties they will go back to for the next round.

The last event for sorority rush is Preference Night. Girls who are rushing may attend up to two Preference parties. After attending the Preference parties, potential new members must narrow down their choice to one sorority and hope for a bid.

Rush is a unique opportunity to mingle with all kinds of people, ask fraternity brothers questions about their organization and get a feel for what Greek life is all about.

Esther Bochner, a sophomore and member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority feels, "Rush is about finding the group of girls who make you feel more comfortable with who you are. When you meet them, you just know you belong."

More information is available from the Greek life Web site, http://web.jhu.edu/studentprograms/greek_lifel.

Sorority devotee finds sisterhood of friends

To be honest, I had a wonderful freshman fall at Hopkins, but like most students here, I kept hearing this small voice inside of my head, "Why did you apply early? You'll never know where else you could have gotten in. Another school could have been more fun."

I did my best to quiet this unnerving feeling during the first semester, but as soon as Inter-session rolled around, and I was back on campus as early as Dec. 28 for swimming, the voices grew louder. I was confused and upset, and I felt like I just didn't have the group of best friends that I thought I should have in college.

So first, I filled out all the transfer applications, wrote the essays, and ordered my scores and transcripts to be sent to schools. All I had to do was say the magic words, and I could apply to transfer.

But before I did anything drastic, I decided I would rush — my last attempt at making Hopkins work.

When I was rushing, the pressure was on. My mother and grandmother had been in one sorority, my older sister is currently in another at Hopkins, and my teammates were swaying in a third direction.

Under this pressure it would have been easy to get caught up in other's decisions. But instead of worrying about what others were doing around me — or had done in the past — I decided not to rush for any of them, and instead rush for myself.

Going into rush I was excited and a little apprehensive. If joining a sorority would make Hopkins a better choice, I was up for the adventure.

Attending the different parties didn't make the picking any easier — and yes, I was that girl who sat outside the room on bid night and cried. I cried because in that moment, I was making the biggest decision of my life.

I was deciding not just which sorority to become a part of, but also, if I ended up unhappy with my pick, I would have to make myriad

other decisions regarding my education.

So after much ado, I finally picked the sorority in which I felt most comfortable, where I had established the most friendships with upperclassmen and where I felt I could be the most me.

I didn't have to worry what I was wearing, what I was saying because these girls sincerely wanted me to be their friend.

Never could I ever have imagined that signing that bid card would turn my life at Hopkins around.

From the first night in my new sorority, I knew that it was more than the parties, the fancy dresses and the mystery dates that make sorority life special. For me, it is the daily laughs, inside jokes and memories that I will remember the most.

I soon found out that I was also fortunate to be blessed with the best family in my sorority. We are all so different, with unique majors, talents, backgrounds and interests.



Sophomore sorority sisters Megan Maguire, Elizabeth Heenan and Kara Gillis enjoy newly bonded friendship at pledge party event.

However, when it comes to my big sister, we are also very similar, as we discovered one late summer night on the phone.

My big and I share a special relationship, and last semester, we even shared 2 classes. I didn't go a day without seeing or at least talking to her, and if I did, it was akin to experiencing withdrawal — sans the 12-step program.

But it wasn't just in my family that I found those "nice girls" my mom always told me about. My pledge class, not to mention my entire sorority is full of amazing people who share a special secret bond that runs around the world and generations deep.

Joining a sorority, I found more than just good friends, I found my sisters.

RUSH CALENDER OF EVENTS

Sorority Rush

Sorority rush begins with an information session on Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion. Sororities will then host a series of four parties, and bids will be handed out on Feb. 9. For more information contact Robert Turning at rturning@jhu.edu or visit the Office of Greek Life's Web site: http://web.jhu.edu/studentprograms/greek_lifel.

Rush party dates

Ice Water: Feb. 2, 6-10:20 p.m.
First Round: Feb. 4, 12-5 p.m.
Second Round: Feb. 6, 5:30-

9:10 p.m.

Preference: Feb. 8, 5:45-9 p.m.

Fraternity Rush

Fraternity rush begins with an informational meeting on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion. Everybody interested in fraternity life at Hopkins is welcome to attend and learn more about Greek life. Rush will then run through Feb. 17 with each chapter having their own schedule of events. Those who are interested are encouraged to find more information online at the Office of Greek Life's Web site.

— Liza Wehrly

Why Phi MU is able to enjoy their exclusive Pink Palace

By REBECCA MESSNER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

At the end of Greenway, off of East University, you'll find the Rogers' House, a Hopkins-owned University dorm. Dubbed the "Pink Palace" by its Phi Mu sisters, the Rogers House is not actually pink, as some may have wondered; it's just inhabited by girls of the pinkest sorority on campus.

Roughly five after The Johns Hopkins Gamma Tau chapter of Phi Mu sorority was founded on this campus in 1982, they joined forces with JHU Housing in order to fill up the 17 rooms of 3506 Greenway, the Rogers' House.

"Phi Mu national wouldn't give us funding for a house of our own," says Carolyn Cooper, Hopkins' Phi Mu chapter adviser since 1996, "so we were fortunate enough to receive a contract from JHU Housing offices that would allow us to have one."

A multi-year contract was signed between the housing office and Phi Mu, based on the already firm establishment of the sorority on campus and the fact that a Phi Mu sister was already an RA. Hopkins seemed to like the idea of having a Greek house on campus, and at the time Phi Mu was the strongest of the few sororities established.

It wasn't until five years ago, when Kappa Kappa Gamma,

Alpha Phi and Kappa Alpha Theta were all firmly established at Hopkins that the University considered rethinking their exclusive contract with Phi Mu. They planned on having a fair and random lottery of all interested sororities on campus, the winner of which would take the Rogers House.

In the end, however, Phi Mu was the only one to express interest; the house, therefore, remains theirs.

Each year Phi Mu asks all interested sisters to sign up for a room in the house on a first-come first-serve basis, and preference goes to girls who have lived in the house before.

Like all other dorms the Rogers House has a resident adviser, though each one is a sister in Phi Mu.

"I definitely love it," says Phi Mu president Amanda Friant when asked if she enjoys living in the house. "I've lived here for two years, and it's a very comfortable environment; it couldn't get much better. We all have singles, so it's like living in an apartment with your friends on every floor."

The Rogers House is set up similar to the on-campus apartments of Homewood and the Bradford. On each floor, single rooms are attached to a spacious living room area and a small kitchen, and each floor shares a bathroom. Furthermore, housing maintenance makes its way



Phi Mu's house, the Pink Palace, is the only University-owned sorority house on campus.

to the Rogers House too, so the girls don't have to worry about utilities. Security, as well, is University-run, so it is likewise as safe.

Despite its comfortable setup, however, a lot of girls are hesitant to take the plunge and move in.

"Some people think it's an overload of too many girls and too much drama, but it's the

perfect balance between having your own space and always having people around," says Adit Tal, sophomore and Pink Palace resident. "Since we all have our own rooms, we always have the choice to be alone, do our work or just relax, but at the same time there's always someone around to watch TV or cook with or go to the gym with."

RUSH FACTS & FICTION

Fiction

Hopkins has an equal number of sororities and fraternities.

Fact

There are 11 fraternities in the Inter-fraternity council at JHU, and there are four sororities in the Panhellenic Council.

Fiction

The IFC acknowledges acts of hazing as an integral portion of the fraternity pledging process.

Fact

According to bylaws of the JHU inter-fraternity council, "Hazing is not permitted by any active member of any IFC member organization."

Fiction

Only full time students on the Homewood campus are eligible to participate in the panhellenic rush process.

Fact

Any girl who is a full-time student at Hopkins (including Peabody and the School of Nursing) can rush.

Fiction

Ultimately it is only the sorority members who decide who will be in their sorority.

Fact

For sororities in the Panhellenic Council, rush is a mutual selection process.

— Liza Wehrly



Sorority and fraternity members participate as team in Greek retreat activity.

FEATURES

Students find rewards amid nature's wreckage

By MELISSA ARTNAK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

For most students Intercession is a time for sitting at home, watching too much TV, traveling to an exotic locale or taking an easy one-credit class. But one small group of friends decided to use their school-free time to volunteer in Biloxi, Miss., an area hit hard by the destruction from Hurricane Katrina.

Seniors Zirui Song and Tom McBride came up with the idea to arrange for a group of Hopkins students to travel during Intercession to one of the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and help out in any way possible.

At first they thought they would advertise around campus to find enough people interested in joining their efforts, but after spreading the word among friends, they realized that they didn't have to look far to gather a sizeable volunteer group.

In total, 14 Hopkins students, two Loyola students and McBride's brother, a University of Delaware student, embarked on a 12-day volunteer trip in Biloxi and its surrounding areas.

This wasn't just a spontaneous idea that popped up among friends — the Biloxi trip involved a fair amount of planning, arranging and fundraising. "At first, the biggest thing

was finding a host group," McBride said.

A friend of McBride had participated in a similar volunteer trip to the area, and he told McBride that the best way to find an organization to work alongside was to track down a church group.

Many of the national organizations pitching in on hurricane relief are already filled to their maximum volunteer capacity, while churches and other small community groups, which are on a local level, are more apt to have space for volunteers, since they aren't as widely known.

Another obstacle encountered was the skill level of the group, most of whom weren't too familiar with the ins and outs of building construction. "We needed a place that could give us enough work orders, but didn't require skilled labor," McBride said.

Eventually, they found an ideal host group — the First Presbyterian Church in Biloxi. The church would host the students during their stay, and the church's program was comprised of both housing contractors who took care of the planning and intricacies and volunteers who contributed to the best of their abilities.

With that step out of the way, McBride, Song and the other volunteers needed to raise money



COURTESY OF ZIRUI SONG
Hopkins student volunteers work together to repair a damaged roof in storm-torn Biloxi.

for the trip. "People were willing to give money," McBride said. They wrote letters to over 100 philanthropic groups for assistance and received about \$3,500 from those efforts. Also, anonymous alumni donated to the cause, and some money was raised through a radio station in McBride's hometown.

The preparations were complete and, on Jan. 8, the group of volunteers traveled to Biloxi, not quite sure what to expect when they arrived.

Both Song and McBride agree that the effects of Hurricane Katrina's destruction plague some towns and neighborhoods more than others. "You could drive around parts of the city and think that it happened just yesterday," McBride said.

Senior Chris Corces, a volunteer on the trip, had a similar impression upon surveying the area. "While nobody had any misconceptions about how much had been destroyed or just how massive the rebuilding effort would need to be, we were all shocked at how little seemed to have been done since August," Corces said.

"After speaking to numerous relief workers and other residents to the area, the consensus was that there is just so much that needs to be done that it is hard to determine where to

start and what to do first."

The volunteers emphasized how photos or news reports depicting the areas struck by Katrina still didn't prepare them for the severity of the damage they saw.

"It's hard to imagine how bad the situation down there is until you are actually standing in the middle of a community that is nothing but foundations and debris," said senior Michael Moylan, another volunteer on the Biloxi trip.

Song, McBride and the rest of the volunteers said they noticed a disparity between the progress of the wealthier and the poorer areas. "There were patches of neighborhoods that looked alright," Song said.

But, he added that those patches tended to be either tourist, commercial or upper-class residential areas. Song emphasized that there was a clear class divide — people who can afford it are rebuilding their homes as quickly as they can, while those who are less fortunate need to wait until they have enough money or until a volunteer group, like the First Presbyterian Church, comes to their assistance.

In addition to the impact of financial situations on the rebuilding process, the people in charge of the tourist attractions and commercial businesses also have the motivation of rebuild

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Resolve to reduce fashion failures for the new year

It's 2006, which means "in with the new, out with the old (and unfortunate)." Having rung in the New Year, it's high time we wring out some of the more regrettable styles of 2005, replacing them with both fashion and lifestyle trends sure to be red hot in '06.

Barring any sense of decorum, let's jump right in, broaching perhaps the most tragic of style slip-ups this past year: the fateful trend of pets as accessories.

Spearheaded by royalty and First Ladies, the pet has long been an object of both affection and display. However, in the past three years, celebrities have come to view the animal as a style staple rather than a living creature. Moreover, pets have become extensions of the celebrity — another conduit stars employ to garner attention and show off.

While the more recent version of the "pet accessory" began harmlessly enough, with the likes of Paris Hilton and Jessica Simpson donning their Chihuahuas or Poodles, respectively, in animal-sized Pucci clothes, and toting them in Louis Vuitton carriers, its present condition is simply out of control.

Just recently Paris arrived at a Hollywood movie premier not clutching a sequenced handbag, but rather a ferret — donning a diamond collar, of course.

While the "pet accessory" may have been cute and comical, it has now become nauseating — not to mention extremely over-subscribed. The point is: it needs to end. Dogs, cats and ferrets are of the living world, not the material.

Having confronted that, another blunder of 2005 belongs to the grooming and aesthetics family. Much to Pam Anderson's dismay, mile-long hair extensions have flown the coop.

2006 will see a decline in the synthetic and contrived, meaning extensions, fake eyelashes and painted brows are not only relics of the past, but reminders of less fortunate times.

And now comes my perennial "this-needs-destroying" favorite: the so-called trend

that has lingered far too long, and is anything but stylish at this point, is the dreaded Uggs boot. Please, relegate the Uggs to your storage closet now.

Have some decency and know the masses are sick of seeing you arrive to class, restaurants and bars sporting what looks like a bedroom slipper. These silly looking boots are so ubiquitous that they've become a symbol of conformity. Give up the Uggs!

Enough of the tragedies of '05 — let's move on to what 2006 has in store. The fashion forecast for the coming year predicts a shift toward traditional femininity and masculinity for women and men. This means women's clothing will be centered around the

cocktail dress, gowns and delicate-looking shoes, while men's lines will include tuxedo-style suits, dressy cardigans and pinstriped pants.

Among the hot-ticket items of the coming months is ex-Gucci mastermind Tom Ford's new beauty and eyewear ranges. Following traditional "Fordism," both his makeup and sunglasses are sexy, bold and attention-grabbing.

Every season needs an It handbag, and for 2006 it's Fendi's new "B bag." With its upward-tapering rectangular shape, chain mail straps and large belt buckle-like closures, it perfectly compliments the vibe resonating through the fashion world — big and bold.

Finally, 2006 will see the rise of what I call "ballet chic." Seen on the likes of Sienna Miller and Kirsten Dunst, as well as in the runway shows of Vera Wang and Stella McCartney, leggings, low-cut baggy sweaters and flats are the new It outfit.

One trend of '06 outside the realm of fashion is blogging, an online form of journal entry that has become increasingly popular over the last few years. However, rather than individuals pouring out their inner thoughts to whatever public is willing to read, the blogs of 2006 are of a more refined kind.

So while the holidays are over, and we're stuck in the doldrums of winter, 2006 has just begun. A new year awaits.



Carter Cramer
Hop Couture



COURTESY OF ZIRUI SONG
Biloxi was one of several low-lying areas within Mississippi devastated by Katrina's landfall.

HOT AT HOPKINS

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, it's the ideal time to share your gorgeous face, catch someone's eye and get some lovin'. Otherwise, you'll just be drinking alone. E-mail: features@jhnewsletter.com



Name: Chris Kovalchick
Hometown: Hamilton, N.J.
Major: Engineering Mechanics and Violin Performance
Year: 2006

It's a wonder how Chris Kovalchick manages to have any time to be hot. As a Hopkins-Peabody double major with a mathematics minor, it's hard to believe Chris has a few hours to sleep, let alone gel his coif and pop his collar. "I will agree that a popped collar doesn't look good on everybody — it looks good on some and not on others. I just happen to be one of the ones that make it look good," this stud said. A brainy multi-tasker with a flair for fashion? That almost overpowers his blatant lack of modesty. Almost.

OK, so he might have a touch of arrogance, but he's just so darn hot he can't help it. Plus, his soft spot for his family pretty much counteracts that one negative. He even considers Prague, Czech Republic, to be a second hometown of sorts because, he says, "It's where my grandparents come

from. I have a deep passion for my ethnic heritage." Aw, how sweet.

Speaking of passion, this charmer is full of it. He recently made a candlelit dinner for his girlfriend (yeah, sorry girls, he's spoken for), while "sultry bossa nova music" played in the background. "Afterward, we exchanged many luscious pleasures," he said.

If a girl happens to want to get into *Friends* star David Schwimmer's trousers, she needn't look much further.

Chris says that everyone tells him he is a spitting image of everyone's favorite TV paleontologist — he just can't help it if all you ladies want to jump his bones.

Just don't get your hopes too high, because this faithful fellow said that the ideal traits for his partner are on a "list too long for publication — please reference my girlfriend."



Name: Cameron Granger
Hometown: Chapel Hill, N.C.
Major: Film and Media/Writing Seminars
Year: 2008

While you might not be able to track down Cameron (she tends to "randomly visit other cities"), you certainly won't miss her when you do. This striking sophomore is known for her flowing "Asian black" hair and sultry smile, which you're guaranteed to see often, as she spends most of her precious time with "people who make me happy." Plus, she'll probably be wearing something pink and silky, which sounds a lot like lingerie. Rawr, how saucy.

But don't go thinking Cameron's a bad girl, by any means. On the contrary, she's quite a sweetie, as evidenced by her tendency "to make too many sweet foods, like brownie mix and cookie dough." Sounds like quite the treat, right guys?

So what does it take to get Cameron to whip up a little concoction just for you? Well, she likes "being charmed" by a guy, so spit your best game to woo this foxy lady. Then take her out for her perfect date, which is "more of an ideal day, I guess." It includes such activities as taking a road trip, exploring the destination, dining on sushi and sharing a sweet dessert, while kissing in between bites. Brings a whole new meaning to Hershey's Kisses ...

And, if the date goes superbly, Cameron might just suggest trying out her favorite fetish — "handcuffs, pink fuzzy ones." Hot damn, that's certainly a good way to end the ideal date.

Boh-lieve in Baltimore's favorite natural beer

In this increasingly globalized society, cities and regions can lose some of the quirks and traditions that have long offered definition and identity. Corporations and national media have influenced the American people to become more homogenized — standard, comfortable and predictable. Somehow the charm of a place is lost when every corner supports a thriving Starbucks and families shop primarily in the local Wal-Mart.

Baltimore, however, can still look to one hero of regional unity and independence. He is a modern and historical figure, simultaneously, and few individuals enjoy as much recognition and respect as he. No, I am not referring to any politician, artist or sportsman, but rather a marketing icon — Mr. Boh.

Mr. Boh, as we all know well, is the signature spokes-cartoon for Baltimore's very own blue-collar beer, National Bohemian. Each label sports the dapper, waxed-moustache-wearing, winking man welcoming everyone to enjoy the taste from "the land of pleasant living" — a most proper label for the Chesapeake Bay region.

Today, Mr. Boh appears on any number of products available for sale, and the aptly named Brewer's Hill features an amazing winking Mr. Boh sign. When driving on I-95 around Baltimore, his proud winking

visage is visible in the form of a giant neon sign.

Before any questions are asked, I assert that beer is as much a food as the hamburger. It is produced usually from grain (classically barley), hops (a natural preservative



Justin Oren
POSTMODERN
GOURMET

and flavoring) and yeast. Additionally, folks such as European monks used beer in lieu of food during religious fasting periods.

Some organizations would like us to believe that it is a dangerous drug — and they have some good points — but imagine what eating ten quarter pounders in a row would do to you.

Digressions aside, there are few things more Baltimorean than to enjoy a nice cold Boh.

There are certainly better

beers available, but few are cheaper. For about \$10, you and your friends can afford 24 sturdy aluminum cans of glorious Natty Boh!

The National Brewing Company was founded in 1872 in our fair city, but it was only in 1934, after Prohibition, that Mr. Boh appeared on the company's pilsner product.

Before the advent of cheap refrigerated transport, most people drank the local brew. Coalminers in Pennsylvania drank Yuengling while millworkers and watermen in Maryland drank Boh.

The brand is currently owned by the Pabst Brewing Company, who changed the recipe from the original 19th century Baltimore classic to what it is today. The recipe that we all know is more akin to Pabst Blue Ribbon Light than the original, which was probably a hoppier, bolder flavor. Baltimore craft brewers Clipper City are rumored to own the original recipe.

Though it's no longer brewed in Baltimore, the history and the fact that basically only Marylanders drink it make it an important cultural artifact.

The big three American brewers offer an inferior tasting product at a higher price. With their brews, Boh drinkers are a small enough group to make it special, a club to which all of Maryland is privy. We have Boh. Bohlieve.

FEATURES

Embarking on a diesel-powered trip to Africa

By GAYA MURUGAPPAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Adventure-seeking Hopkins students might seem like a rare breed, but alumni Emily Horgan and Jimmy Warner leave their peers in the dust.

As participants in the fourth annual Plymouth-Banjul Challenge, Horgan and Warner have risked their lives and their sanity to drive more than 4,000 miles from the U.K. through France, Spain, Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania and Senegal to Banjul, capital of The Gambia.

The most admirable aspect of their journey, however, stems from the nature of their reward; Horgan and Warner raised money for the Santa Yalla ("Helping Hand") Society, a community-based organization fighting HIV/AIDS in The Gambia.

Their donation will provide small loans to HIV/AIDS sufferers to engage in income-generating projects.

Every year, 200 people who are willing to risk almost anything for the experience of a lifetime undertake the Plymouth-Banjul Challenge, a non-competitive charity event.

This year's trip, nicknamed the "Ultimate Danger Challenge," began in December 2005.

Of the four groups participating, three have reached their Gambian destination and the last group is scheduled to depart from the U.K. this February.

The challenge, however, is not simply the mileage each team must cover; all teams must drive an old junker costing no more than \$100, which will be sold at an auction or donated at the end of the journey.

In addition, all participants

must be "on their own," meaning they may receive no back-up trucks or mechanical assistance in the event of an imminent breakdown, no special arrangements with any countries for entry or exit, no medical assistance, no repatriation of bodies and no assistance for entrants stranded at any point in the journey.

Of the 100 teams involved, Horgan and Warner, "The Terranauts," have unique talents that undoubtedly ensured their successful completion of the challenge.

Emily Horgan is a veteran of the 2004 Plymouth-Banjul Challenge.

She recalled her arrival in Banjul the previous year on her record of the trip; "The Spandango Meteors [Emily's team] ripped the undercarriage off a 1991 Ford Fiesta and limped into Banjul with steam pouring from the engine."

Last year, Horgan learned a lot about car parts and repairs from the experience.

A native New Yorker, Jimmy Warner learned to drive at age 25.

After spending years at the helm of an unticketable New York city government truck, Warner felt confident in his driving abilities — until he met their ride.

Perhaps the most important Terranaut member is Dusty, a Mercedes-Benz born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1980.

After stints at the Greek Embassy and Geneva, Dusty fell victim to the alpine winters and vanished before reappearing at a 1995 auction in Margate, England where the car was bought by children's entertainer Nikodemus.

After Nikodemus' death, Dusty was auctioned for scrap on eBay and by some mysteri-



PHOTOS BY JIMMY WARNER/GRAPHIC BY MATT HANSEN
Two Hopkins alumni followed this winding route through Africa in a race for charity.

ous fate, was discovered by the Terranauts in October 2005. Dusty embarked on the Plymouth-Banjul Challenge with severe rust, sagging suspension, a cracked radiator and 300,000 kilometers on the clock.

Their incredibly memorable first day on the adventure was recorded in the log of their travel experiences. "Five hours

later we were still going up and down over four-foot dirt crevasses on a road that seemed to have been peppered with minor explosives. Dodging cows and suicidal bush taxis, it was interminable hell on wheels."

After three weeks of unforgettable adventure, the team arrived safely in their final destination in Banjul, exhilarated from their journey.

Their group raised \$25,403 in the auction that followed their arrival. The Terranauts can be contacted via <http://www.terrannauts.com>.

Volunteers help repair Biloxi house by house

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
ing and getting back into business as soon as possible, which is something that the group really noticed when they spent a day in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

While working in Biloxi and nearby towns, McBride, Song and the rest of their volunteer group worked primarily on three main houses, and through side projects they helped with about 15 other homes. On their first day of construction work, the group was met with an exciting task — demolition. "[The housing contractors] gave us sledgehammers and crowbars, and they said to completely gut the house," said McBride.

Other tasks that the group performed on the houses included electrical work, insulation work and roofing. In some situations, the homeowners joined the volunteers with the house construction, unless the homeowners were older or disabled, which was frequently the case.

The volunteers were able to meet about three-quarters of the people whose houses they helped rebuild. McBride emphasized that "the church chose families who were particularly needy — regardless of religion, this church group helped."

Upon talking with some of the families, McBride and Song heard numerous stories about the moments when Hurricane Katrina first hit. "Surprisingly, a lot of people stayed during the hurricane," McBride said.

McBride recalls one story he heard about a man who stayed in his house until the water became so high that the man had to swim out of his house. From there, he made his way to a telephone pole, grabbed onto the pole and stayed there for 12 hours during what the man described as 125 mile per hour winds.

Song met one man who, while showing him the remnants of

his house, pointed to the place where he and his family set one table on top of another and waited on the table's surface until they could get out. After the worst of the storm, the man said, he stayed in a tent until further assistance arrived.

Song and McBride both described how, even during their trip in mid-January, they saw refrigerators along the shoreline and entire stove and oven units on the ground, appearing to have been torn from the kitchen walls and carried away by the winds.

The fact that noticeable results of Katrina's destruction are still interspersed throughout Biloxi and other towns says a lot about hurricane relief and rebuilding in general. "There's still way too much that needs to be done," Song said. "There's still an opportunity for people to contribute."

McBride agreed with his friend's sentiments: "There are all of these feel-good stories about people donating their time, but in the end we're each only able to work on a few houses."

After all, Song said, "the reality is that it's going to take a long time to rebuild."

The student volunteers left Biloxi with new perspectives resulting from their experiences and the people they met while on the trip. "The biggest thing that I have been able to take away from the trip is the amazing perseverance and determination that so many in the area have been able to maintain despite all of the hardship that they have had to endure," Corcoran said.

For those interested in learning more about the experiences of these volunteers in Biloxi, they will be making a presentation about the trip at the Center for Social Concern's volunteer week, on a date to be determined.

Watch out for dating dealbreakers

Many of us begin new singledom after a relationship by saying, "Never again. I will not let [insert name/action] happen again."

While relationships start off well, it's easy to miss those little comments people drop to clue you into what's to come. Some of these "red-flag" comments are written off, others are ignored and others you just laugh at because you assume they cannot possibly be true. But, in the end, you end up kicking yourself for missing the matador's tool of the trade.

These comments are a service we provide others, a moment of altruism, a way of saying, "Look, you know you really don't want to date me, and from here on it's your own damn fault." Generally, many of the red-flag comments come at the beginning of a fledgling relationship and fall into a few categories which we should be more vigilant about noticing.

First, there are the legal issues people will fess up to without much prodding. There's a difference between young and stupid and a moral lapse enough to end a relationship quickly, and people too easily blur these categories.

The next group that's easy to overlook in college is general substance abuse. OK, so there is rarely a college student who doesn't qualify as a binge drinker (five drinks in one sitting for guys, four for girls) but there are comments people make on the first few dates that point to more than a few rough nights at PJs.

An example is a friend on a first date asking a guy how he broke his hand. His response: "I think last night I got drunk and punched out my TV." Not a good start. Another comment that should put up red flags during first encounters is, "It's amazing, I've tried and I don't think I can get drunk anymore." For some reason this hasn't stopped some people in their tracks.

An extension of this is drug use. If your and your new date's drug habit match, congrats, but if you overlook things like your new cell ring for him/her is "Because I Got High" and you don't smoke, this will be an issue.

Generally, sexual relation-

ships require sex — when they don't, this is a hint things just aren't working out. Once, a friend of mine was somewhat frustrated at the pace at which a new "friend" was moving. When she broached the subject, he responded, "Well, I'm afraid you will take me away from Jesus." If you don't believe in sex, it needs to be discussed. It's not that someone is not entitled to



JESS BEATON

Orgasmic Chemistry

abstain, but rather that he or she shouldn't torture others who aren't making that decision.

Once you're having sex with someone, and he or she hasn't given any major red flags that the relationship isn't going anywhere, I've still seen too many people ignore key comments in the name of civility. A common example is, "My ex used to do it like this." Civility should be reserved for parents' friends you cannot stand, not the person you're in bed with. If you want to argue that one comment like this, once you are in a relationship, fine, but more than once and you will know that if that ex ever decides to reappear, you will probably disappear.

Others who are short on tact will approach a situation when they don't want to be in a relationship by giving less subtle clues. They might say something like, "I wish I had slept with more people." In a relationship this is either a poor way of asking for a threesome or ending it. If you're just starting to go out, hearing this means things will not move much farther. No. Really. You are not the one to change them. Leave that therapy for someone else.

I wish I had the space for more "do not date me" com-

ments I've heard of. These are not the deal breakers, but they should be enough to realize that you shouldn't waste your time. We wouldn't be Hopkins students if we didn't think that by sheer force of time and effort we couldn't overcome a problem (no one would get through physics without this mentality).

Nevertheless, I give the award for most commonly uttered phrase on a doomed first date to, "I'm not ready to be in a relationship again." Maybe it's a line or maybe it's true — who knows? Really though, this is a pretty direct message. Someone who is equivocal about the sentiment wouldn't say it and would try and see how things go. I would continue with other comments, but instead here's a quick cheat sheet. If your date says any variations on these phrases, consider it to mean "Don't date me."

"I think I'm the cause of the end of all my relationships."

"A lot of people call me emotionally unavailable."

"I'm not the relationship type."

Way too often we let comments like these off the hook even when the person's basic actions are giving us exactly the same hints (think being exceptionally rude to a waiter or not being friends with a single ex).

It's OK to cut someone some slack for being a member of Team Awkward and saying slightly off things when he/she is nervous in the early stage of dating. It's another thing to ignore someone's hint to "proceed at your own risk." Do yourself a favor and accept people's rare altruism when they give such hints and go have fun with someone who doesn't need to point out, "I like brunettes" when you're a blond. You might even save hundreds of dollars on therapy down the line.

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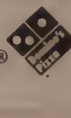
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What: Campus Safety and Security owns and manages a fleet of 12-seat passenger vans, operated by part-time student and civilian drivers. Our vans are distinctly marked with university logo and number. On weekends, the university pays for two Yellow Bus coaches to operate in and around the Charles Village area off campus. These are 21-seat passenger buses. They operate from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Thursday-Saturday.

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Escort Van Service schedules

West Route - Homewood Campus to Super Fresh/Rotunda Giant (Operates Daily)

Route One begins at 4:35 p.m. and continues every hour until 9:16 p.m.

Route Two begins at 5:05 p.m. and continues every hour until 9:46 p.m.

Northbound Departure Times – Shriver to Superfresh

	Route One	Route Two
Depart from MSE	4:35 p.m.	5:05 p.m.
Depart from Shriver	:38	:08
Depart from Homewood	:42	:12
Depart from Wolman/McCoy	:45	:15
Depart from Marylander Apts.	:46	:16
Depart from 39 th & University	:51	:21
Depart from Superfresh	:57	:27

Southbound Departure Times – Rotunda to MSE

	Route One	Route Two
Depart from Rotunda	:59	:29
Depart from 39 th & University	:04	:34
Depart from Wolman/McCoy	:09	:39
Depart from Marylander Apts.	:10	:40
Depart from Homewood	:13	:43
Arrive from MSE	:16	:46

East Route - Charles Village to Waverly Giant, Blockbuster, Rite Aide Stores. (Operates Daily)

Route One begins at 5:15 p.m. and continues every hour until 11:45 p.m.

Route Two begins at 5:45 p.m. and continues every hour until 12:15 a.m.

	Route One	Route Two
Depart from Homewood Apts.	5:15 p.m.	5:45 p.m.
Depart from Hopkins House Apts.	:19	:49
Depart from Rear of AMR 1&2	:21	:51
Depart from Wolman/McCoy	:23	:53
Depart from Marylander Apts.	:24	:54
Depart from Waverly Giant	:28	:58
Depart from Peabody Apts.	:30	:00
Depart from Safeway (25 th St.)	:34	:04
Depart from 22 nd & Maryland	:37	:07
Arrive at Homewood Apts.	:41	:11

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January 27, 2006

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal star in director Ang Lee's adaptation of Annie Proulx's "Brokeback Mountain," nominated for eight Oscars.

Romance redefined in Lee's *Brokeback*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Since its release, it has been touted as the entertainment event that will bridge the red state-blue state divide, put a new face on homosexual rights, and usher in a new generation of Hollywood talent — the "Brokeback breakthrough," as *Time* called it. Certainly all the machinery for a new engine in the culture wars is present. Yet, each time I think back over the scenes of Lee's moving and straightforward piece of cinema, or leaf through the efficient short fiction by Annie Proulx that furnished its story, I can't help seeing the film for what it first was and still is: a sweeping, heartbreaking specimen of the finest narrative artistry.

With his earlier powerhouse *The Ice Storm*, the Taiwan-born Lee showed a mastery of American angst that, ironically, is often missing from stateside work. Silence and frustration have proved to be among his strongest tools before, but on the Wyoming valleys of *Brokeback Mountain*, they overwhelm the landscape. Takign place over 20 years, the film follows the relationship between two ranch hands, Ennis del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), who are hired to tend a flock of sheep during the summer of 1963.

The two could not be more different — to Jack's friendly conversation and winning smile, Ennis responds with a series of squints and careful monosyllables. Though after a few weeks of cooking beans and minding the herd, their mutual fondness explodes into a sexual passion that is alternately tender and violent.

When they come back from their job, Jack and Ennis find new work, marry and raise families, as if such a cycle were a matter of predestination. It is years until they meet again on Jack's invitation and strike up a new affair, going on secretive "fishing trips," as Ennis calls them, near where they first met on *Brokeback Mountain*. One finds no moments of goodness, villainy or even personal growth in what ensues: only the confusion of forbidden love and the shadow of a society that, as Ennis constantly reminds Jack, remains viciously intolerant of homosexuality.

There are a few nice surprises early in the game, among them a spot-on cameo from Randy Quaid and gallows humor here and there. But perhaps the biggest treat was watching a cast that was once good for little more than posing in *Teen People* cover shots (Anne Hathaway and Michelle Williams play the wives) give some of the strongest performances of the year.

Gyllenhaal has the firmest movie star pedigree, and it shows: You can taste a little Paul Newman swagger along with the puppy eyes and vivacious talk. Hathaway makes an attentive and believable ro-

deo queen wife for him, while Williams, as Ennis' mate, both complements his character and gives the picture an indignant emotional anchor. As time passes, the husbands and wives grow distant and robotic, attesting to the personal costs of social prejudice, however implicit.

But it is Ledger's Ennis, a

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

Starring: Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Williams, Anne Hathaway
Director: Ang Lee
Run Time: 2 hrs 14 mins
Rating: R
Playing at: The Charles Theatre

man of stifled feelings and hard-up lifestyle, who proves most poignant. He is not a hero, but a simple man who copes by conforming as best he can to rancher toughness. That Lee's direction, which elevates the plains landscape to a supernatural presence, should swirl about him underlines how out of place his desires are in conventional views of the West. Like Clint Eastwood's *Unfor-*

given, the other great revisionist Western, *Brokeback Mountain* is fascinated with the legends of cowboy bravado but wistfully attuned to earthy realities.

The big-screen *Brokeback*, much like Proulx's short story, is reassuringly stripped of preachy politicizing, since character and atmosphere are the main concerns. Even at that, Lee's adaptation is an improvement on its source, since it eliminates any hint of Proulx's external voice, which, as with most other *New Yorker* fare, can be a tad supercilious. Aided by a vision akin to Peter Jackson's combination between the experimentalism of independent film and the grandeur of a purebred blockbuster, Lee and his cast leave us with a tale of love sometimes experienced, possibly understood, but never truly fulfilled.

So now that so much has been said, how are we supposed to regard a film like *Brokeback Mountain*? A landmark political statement? A model for future Academy Award vehicles? Instead, perhaps we could remember that before anyone's agenda got in the way, Lee's film was a tale of human imperfection that stood, above all, as an uncommonly beautiful achievement in American cinema.

Transamerica transcends gender

The Oscar-worthy film follows one transexual's outlandish and revealing American odyssey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

The plot is an old one: a father and his son embark on a cross-country road trip and find common ground somewhere in between. The new spin on *Transamerica* is that it's about a transsexual and his newly-discovered 17-year old child.

Sabrina Olson, nicknamed Bree and exquisitely delivered by Felicity Huffman of *Desperate Housewives* fame, is a man that is about to take his final step toward what he feels is complete womanhood. He's had the implants and the reductions, the hormone pills and the tracheal shavings, the waxings and voice altering exercises. Now he just needs one more signature to guarantee him the operation.

With a week to go before the surgery, Sabrina gets a call from a jailed boy named Toby (played by Kevin Zegers of *Air Bud*). He claims to be Bree's son, the product of a one night fling he'd had with a friend in college. Toby, in jail for prostitution, triggers doubts in Bree's doctor (Elizabeth Peña), who thinks she needs to work through this part of her life before moving on with the surgery. With the one-week deadline looming precariously in front of her, Bree is pressured into a last-minute trip to New York to bail out her illegitimate son.

What ensues as the two make the trek from New York back home to Los Angeles in a lime-green station wagon can only be described as hilarity. Thankfully, screenwriter and director Duncan Tucker masterfully conducts the familiar saga without the usual clichés and gimmicks. Bree's dry wit and Toby's raw adolescence make for two dynamic characters that never cease to entertain.

Thanks to this performance, Huffman is more than deserving of the Best Actress Oscar. She convincingly portrays a woman uncomfortably trapped in a man's body. Just like her character Lynette Scalvo on *Desperate Housewives*, Huffman is the only woman on screen right now who can deliver the kind of comedy written for men. Recently, the only comedy roles written for woman have been of the "airhead dumb blonde" sort (see Nicole Kidman in *Be-witched* or Reese Witherspoon in *Legally Blonde*). It's refreshing

to see a women in not only a challenging but also a hysterical role.

Whereas many other actresses would be scared off by a role that required them to be "ugly" Huffman embraced the opportunity to prove herself as a talented actress. She is one of the few that have made a smooth transition from television to the big screen this late in the game, joining the ranks

back again from scene to scene. Most of the character development occurs during each of the trip's multiple pit stops, and in the nuances of the characters' actions rather than just the dialogue. In this sense, Tucker manages to keep the film real and gives it aspects of an unscripted feel.

Like every good road trip movie, someone has a secret that unravels as the journey pushes forward. *Transamerica* has several. Both father and son are inherently dishonest with each other from the start, but Bree's conscience (or, rather, her therapist on the other end of the phone) forces her to be more up front about it than Toby. Both are trying to erase any evidence of their troubled past and seem determined to hit the "family speed bump" in between.

The aspect of family as a negative influence — Bree's unaccepting family versus Toby's abusive one — is present throughout the entire movie until the decidedly unsappy ending. Somewhere in between Toby's eventual gay pornography career and Bree's penis modification surgery, they find the positive aspect of a family.

Transamerica, in all truth, is a family movie for the modern age. It's delightful and edgy without being vulgar. It tests the boundaries of tolerance and acceptance without being preachy, and it is funny in a truly original way. It is a one-of-a-kind movie that deserves a chance to prove itself to everyone.

of George Clooney and Jennifer Aniston.

Zegers does well in complementing Huffman. He fearlessly tackles what could have been an overdramatic, controversial character by giving Toby a cool nonchalance that is less abrasive than similar characters in other movies, such as Hayden Christensen in *Life as a House* or Nikki Reed in *Thirteen*.

Tucker spares the audience from extensive scenery shots of the American countryside and instead opts to keep the focus on the two main characters. The banter between the two oscillates from witty to serious and



Felicity Huffman and Kevin Zegers are a dynamic pair in Duncan Tucker's *Transamerica*.

The *Match Point* turnaroud: Allen's ingenuity renewed by sly new thriller

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Perhaps I have grown skeptical, waiting for the once-impeccable directorial wit to creak back to life. Yet, along with the resurgence in his craft that I hope the crisp and calculating *Match Point* marks, Allen's latest reveals a darker dimension. Under the veneer of good wine, art and opera in the film's sophisticated Britain lies a soul of greed and desperation that makes itself felt with a quiet, menacing force.

There isn't much that would seem to designate *Match Point* as traditional Allen, though it is imbued with the director's paradoxical mix of tempered

dialogue and complete indirection. Instead, for two hours worth of restrained drama we follow the rise of Chris Wilton (Jonathan Rhys-Myers), a former tennis player trying to settle into a more low-key lifestyle. Though far from dynamic, Chris isn't long for the small apartment and club instructor job that greet him when he touches down in London. After quickly befriendng a wealthy tennis amateur named Tom Hewett (Matthew Goode) and his kind-hearted sister Chloe (Emily Mortimer), Chris' climb up the social ladder is virtually assured. It all seems to be going

so well for him — the Hewett's opera box, a budding romance with Chloe, one cinematographically proficient pleasantry after another — until...

Until Chris meets Nola (Scarlett Johansson), the alluring American actress whom Tom has taken for his fiancée. From their first flirtatious encounter over a ping-pong table, the two fall prey to an instinctive attraction. But Chris realizes the danger of stabbing his patrons in the back, and keeps his lust for Nola hidden from the Hewetts as deeply as possible. If anything, his entrenchment in the high life and eventual marriage to Chloe only increase Chris' liking for our resident *femme fatale*, an ongoing and surreptitious affair as tense as anything you will find in *Brokeback Mountain*.

Not that *Match Point* has much else in common with the film that, barring a miracle, will probably squash it at the Oscars. There has never been anything majestic about Allen's screenwriting or direction — quite the contrary, intimate realism like *Husbands and Wives* and *Manhattan* easily number among his best works. Granted, his new tableau is missing several distinct touches found in these masterworks, including Allen himself. But it layers on everyday little details, generating a calm that may or may not hide something sinister.

Regardless of the film noir speculation, Allen's cast is credible almost to a fault. Johansson's

half-husky voice and full lips could have been designed for just her role, while Rhys-Myers roams London in his particular cloud of boyish anonymity, at once slick and thoroughly uncomfortable. Here, the funny moments are few and far between — however, the Hewett brood, insulated by business interests and a country estate, prove to

more like a less elegant redux of *Crimes and Misdemeanors*. The stronger source, though, is the 1951 near-melodrama *A Place in the Sun*, with its similar indulgence in concealed love and social aspiration. Yet here we don't get the kind of movie-star showmanship that propelled *Match Point*'s ancestor: probably a good thing, because it just wouldn't fit the structure of logical conflict and clear-cut interaction that Allen builds for his characters anyway.

Granted, this method can be constricting. It works perfectly early in Chris' tale, when exposition is of the essence, but slows this venture down as he is pulled farther apart by his dependence on Chloe and his lust for Nola. Yet without such obvious story development, it would be harder to see the larger forces — the competition and chance inherent in Chris' tennis, the tension of the Hewett's beloved operas — that guide Allen's new microcosm.

Of all the grander influences in *Match Point*, none informs Chris' ambitions and obsessions more than luck. It may have been sheer luck that made his fortune, and it might be luck that determines which protagonists make it to the closing credits happy and whole. But in the film business, fortune and inspiration often have a funny way of going hand-in-hand. After a long losing streak, Allen's creative luck, if you would prefer to call it that, might finally be returning.

MATCH POINT

Starring: Jonathan Rhys-Myers, Scarlett Johansson, Emily Mortimer, Matthew Goode
Director: Woody Allen
Run Time: 2 hrs 4 mins
Rating: R
Playing at: The Charles Theatre



Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Rhys-Myers star in Woody Allen's dark and dramatic film.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Walters exhibit unveils Novgorod culture

By LAUREN HILL
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Veliky Novgorod is one of Russia's oldest cities. It thrived economically and culturally in the Middle Ages, producing beautiful examples of religious art. In the exhibit *Sacred Arts and City Life: The Glory of Medieval Novgorod*, the Walters Art Museum presents the art of Novgorod from the ninth through 16th centuries, alongside artifacts of everyday life.

Coming from a time when originality in art was highly valued, it was shocking to see how uniform and highly stylized the art was, as if one caricaturist had created every single icon.

The images, although very beautiful and sometimes very ornate, seemed to be more symbolic in some ways than artistic. While the faces to us might seem comical, they are just part of a highly developed visual language that includes "natural" backgrounds that are abstracted to the point where they bare no resemblance to any real object.

These icons and other works, although maybe strange in our eyes and very uniform, were highly valuable in the medieval world of Novgorod. Perhaps they are more telling of the differences between our culture and theirs than the leather goods, musical instruments, documents and other everyday objects on display. These works shine a light on what it felt like to live in a forgotten ancient world. Many of the paintings have very mystical elements like dragons and other beasts. Also very interesting is the sarcophagus-like capsule with a painting of the person it contains on the front. Since most people associate this burial method with an-



Fans of medieval art flocked to the Walters Art Museum to see the Sacred Arts exhibit, on display until February 12.

cient Egypt, it was surprising to find something like this in an exhibit on medieval Russia.

This exhibit was interesting not only historically but also artistically. Every single painting had high attention to detail, with multiple saints whose beards must have all been painstakingly painted with a single-hair brush. The colors used in the paintings, although likely only an echo of the original ones, were still very vibrant and beautiful.

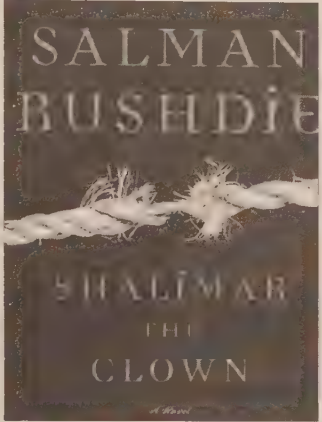
Viewing the exhibit as a whole was very powerful and showed just how much dedication was put into each and every one of the works that could only be the product of years of dedication. The devotion to religion which was so important in those times was painted into each piece.

You don't have to be a theologian or an art history buff to appreciate this exhibit. While I usually find the idea of religious art pretty unappealing, the exhibit provided an interesting glimpse into a world long gone and was also refreshingly small.

Admission to the Walters is free with a Hopkins ID, and the museum is conveniently located in the Mount Vernon area within walking distance of the Hopkins shuttle's Peabody stop. The exhibit runs through Feb. 12, and the Walters is the only museum in the U.S. to hold this exhibit, so get down there quick if you are interested. Even if you miss this exhibit, the Walters is always a wonderful place to visit for art ranging from ancient to Impressionist.

Book Review:
Shalimar
the Clown

By Salman
Rushdie
Random House
Sept. 6, 2005
416 Pages



about her past. This final tale is a coupling of Shalimar himself and the woman he loved, Boonyi: the story of their lives in the small Kashmiri theatrical-player village of Pachigam.

Old traditional ways fight a losing battle against technology and war, as the peaceful village tries to outlive invasion by a harsh Indian army and growing tension between its Muslim and Hindi inhabitants.

Rushdie layers the elements of his story upon one another — each successive chapter adds another component to the already steaming pot of plot that slowly creates a stew of characters. Each character has

Salman Rushdie's latest literary endeavor, *Shalimar the Clown*, takes a love triangle plot and spices it up with the triple threat of lust, ambition and nationalism. He tells the tales of characters whose aspirations drive them to achieve the highest echelon of their capabilities — for both themselves and their countries — which crumbles when each surrenders to personal desire. The novel is divided into separate sections, each named for the character that it spotlights.

The first story concerns India Ophuls, an aspiring filmmaker and the daughter of the former American ambassador to her namesake country. Already questioning her past and self-worth, India's life tailspins after her father is murdered on her front doorstep.

The killer is known by the pseudonym Shalimar the Clown, and it is through India's determination to understand the death of her father that she begins to understand the magnitude of her existence, as well as the true identity and motives behind the elusive Shalimar.

Story two depicts the rise and fall of Maximilian Ophuls. Starting as a Jewish publisher living in Nazi occupied France, Max's beginnings are traced, from wealthy aristocrat to resistance hero and finally to trusted American envoy.

However, lives go topsyturvy when Max's ambassadorship career is ended by an outrageous scandal that not only ruins his political career and storybook marriage, but results in the mysterious conditions surrounding India's birth, coupled with increased political tensions in India, Pakistan and Kashmir.

The third story follows the link between Max's brutal murder and India's lack of knowledge

The crux of the story pivots on the differences in cultures as well as the great love and respect that can be born from accepting differences ...

the novel. The crux of the story pivots on the differences in cultures — Indian-Pakistani, Kashmiri-Indian, Indian-American, Muslim-Hindi — as well as the great love and respect that can be born from accepting differences, in contrast to the massive destruction and loss of life that intolerance can cause.

Once emotionally involved with the lives of the characters in *Shalimar the Clown*, the novel pushes itself along by creating conflicts with only minor resolutions. However, getting to the point where the various conflicts coincide is a separate matter.

The density of Rushdie's language combines with a love and penchant for brilliant descriptions which can sometimes inhibit the rise and fall of the story's plot.

Those who can avoid the verbal landmines are amply rewarded with an opportunity to read about tradition, culture and the dedication of people who overcome any obstacle in their path to achieve a goal.

If a reader can manage to make it through the labyrinth that is *Shalimar the Clown*, he will acquire the appreciation of having read the work of a true master, embodied only by Salman Rushdie.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT:
CHRIS HAMEL, THEATRE



Sophomore Lisa Carey and Junior Chris Hamel starred in the Barnstormers' *Underpants*.

By JOSEPH MICALI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

With the dawning of a new semester at hand, Hopkins theater is preparing for a big season. One of the leaders spearheading this movement is junior Chris Hamel, who is starring in the Barnstormers' Intersession show, *Proof*, and producing the Witness Theater mainstage, *White Hill*. The News-Letter recently had the opportunity to chat with Hamel and get a better understanding of the rising Hopkins star.

After seeing him in various performances (*The Adding Machine*, *Underpants*, *Red Creek*), one would guess Hamel had been acting all his life. This is not the case however. Self-acknowledged as "incredibly shy," Chris started from humble roots as a member of his high school's mock trial team.

In fact, Hamel had not been a part of the theatre program until *Rumors* during the spring of his senior year in high school. He continued right into college and found his niche with Witness Theater, the student-written, student-run theater group. Chris jokes, saying as long as he's having fun and not looking like a total fool, he will continue acting here.

When asked about a future career in acting, Hamel is a realist. He knows what education he's here for, majoring in Public Health, and where acting stands in his list of priorities. If Hamel stays in Baltimore after graduating though, don't be surprised if you see him in a lot of community theater.

Currently, Chris is a part of both the Barnstormers and Witness Intersession shows.

When asked about his experiences with both groups, Hamel said he has loved working with each, though he leans more in Witness.

Chris recognizes the unseen beauty of the entire production process, essentially what Witness does. The show is built from the ground up with submissions from Hopkins students. The board, which Hamel is on, picks the plays and the directors, and does their best to put together a great show.

Sometimes, though, Hamel years for professional full-length plays. Thus, he has worked with the Barnstormers for quite a few shows. However, with the drama *Proof*, Hamel steps into uncharted territory. Chris will be playing the role of Robert, the recently-deceased, brilliant but disturbed mathematical genius. Chris has always had a knack for humor (*Underpants* showcased this talent), but as he puts it, "the pressure's on," with *Proof*.

Hamel is "psyched about this semester," and he has good reason to be. With two of his shows kicking the season off, he is hoping for a lot more people to get interested in Hopkins theater.

Hamel was very happy with show attendances from last semester, as every theater group posted great numbers, but he believes Hopkins still has far to go. Chris doesn't see any reason why you shouldn't see *White Hill* and *Proof*. As he remarked, "Why not? Use it to pregame."

White Hill will be showing this week at the Mattin Center's Swirnow Theater and *Proof* will be showing later this sprign at the Arellano Theater under the Glass Pavilion.

New Vibrations

The Loved Ones
Keep Your Heart
Fat Wreck Chords
Feb. 21, 2006



Comprised of ex-members of modern, melodic-punk heroes Kid Dynamite, The Curse and Trial By Fire, Philadelphia's The Loved Ones have three tough acts to follow. However, the band's demo, self-titled EP and new full length *Keep Your Heart* certainly prove they are up for the challenge.

Singer and guitar player Dave Hause's raspy vocals are akin to those of Milo Aukerman on later Descendents records and even those of Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong on the band's earliest releases. They are the perfect counter-balance to The Loved Ones' instrumental playing provided by bassist Michael "Spider" Cotterman and drummer Mike Sneeringer, which pulls as much from Bruce Springsteen as it does The Bouncing Souls. With infectious hooks and poppy choruses, it is nearly impossible to dislike this band — The Loved Ones truly appeal to all audiences.

For those familiar with the band, The Loved Ones' newest record *Keep Your Heart* is not much of a departure from the band's self-titled EP. For

the time being, that is the way it should be: Their first release itself was flawless, and this album is as well. Old fans will also be happy to hear that the band re-recorded the oh-so-catchy earlier tune "100k," along with the songs "Jane" and "Arsenic" from their demo. *Keep Your Heart's* first track, "Suture Self," starts the album off at an energetic pace that does not slow down until "Sickening," the album's sole ballad.

The Loved Ones' live show is fantastic; that is, of course, if Hause is not drunk. The band's performance as openers at the Lifetime reunion show in New Jersey this past August was really outstanding. Don't let this deter you from seeing the band live, because when they are on, they are certainly on.

Keep Your Heart is an album for all crowds. Whether your thing is Elvis Costello or Green Day, you are sure to find something to like about The Loved Ones' music.

— Andrew Langer

Mary J. Blige
The Break-through
Geffen Records
Dec. 20, 2005



Mary J. Blige bares her soul in her seventh album, *The Breakthrough*. She strips away the artificiality and glamour that plague female artists — she is simply Mary J., the insecure girl from the projects who became the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul.

Blige who grew up in Yonkers has come a long way from her troubled past, which included drug use, molestation and abusive relationships. *The Breakthrough* is an honest account of where Blige is in her life. She has grown into a sophisticated woman. Blige, who married record producer Kendu Isaacs in 2003, is now a confident woman. Known for her heartbreaking songs, she seems to depart from her down-and-out-of-luck image; instead, she has truly blossomed.

Songs such as "Be Without You," which is on constant rotation on urban radio, deal with unconditional love, though Blige is not afraid to show her vulnerabilities and reflect on her past insecurities. In "Take Me As I Am," she lets her audience into who she is and

confronts her self-destructive ways. "You Can't Hide from Love," shows the power of love — hence the title.

"Father in You" is introspective — it seems like a confession. She sings about not having an active father in her life and how her man replaces the affection she never received from her dad. In "MJB Da MVP," Mary also reflects on her past and attributes her self growth to Aaliyah's death.

"One," a motivational, uplifting song about caring and helping others, features rock legends U2. The bonus track, which is untitled, has many mantras, like "Keep moving — don't worry about what they're doing." Mary proves that she definitely deserves the title Queen of Hip Hop Soul, since *The Breakthrough* shows the growth of her as a woman first and then an artist. Here, Blige shows her imperfections and makes them beautiful.

— Mary Banks

Cat Power
The Greatest
Matador Records
Jan. 4, 2005



Widely known for her invariably soporific, depressing-as-hell music, Chan Marshall, who performs as Cat Power, has long reigned as queen of the neo-folk kingdom she helped build and has so ably ruled. But the songstress' new album, *The Greatest*, is far from sleep-inducing. In a rather noticeable departure from her earlier work on *You Are Free*, Marshall combines her smoky inflections with the expertise of several legendary Memphis musicians she enlisted to play on the album, turning out a soul-filled tribute to the city that gave birth to R&B.

The rhythms, though, all belong to Marshall (as do the blues). Songs like the title track and "After It All" highlight this originality. In the latter, Marshall lays her own backup-singing voice over saloon-style, twittering piano and subtle guitar, producing something that smacks of lounge-singer sultriness but also feels carefree and uncharacter-

istically chipper. But by far the most dramatic divergence from Marshall's previous style comes in the album's last track, "Love & Communication." Although it's easy to identify strains of the same moody indignation present on *You Are Free*, it's packaged in a novel way.

Rather than relying solely on her vocal ability to supply it, Marshall instead uses instrumentation as a further means of conveyance. While her languorous, humid voice spreads out like the heat of a Tennessee summer, stringent and sharp violin cuts into grumbling, distant guitar. The lyrics, embittered and antagonistic as usual, are nonetheless hauntingly and beautifully presented. In the end, have no fear: You won't fall asleep listening to *The Greatest*.

— Ben Kallman

Wait 'Til You See How Good We'll Look!



Yep, Terrace is getting a big time makeover...

Beginning with dinner on Sunday, March 26 through Thursday May 18

In the meantime you will have a ton of on campus dining options and there will be no problem using your blocks and points. For the remainder of the semester new or expanded dining options abound.

Wolman Station

Blocks • Points • JCash • Cash

- » Now open for continuous and extended evening service
7 days a week, 7AM-9PM
- » Expanded Bag It! at Wolman now in the East Lounge Monday-Friday 7AM-2PM
- » Relax with expanded seating in our dining room
- » Enjoy new covered and heated 'Al Fresco' dining on the Wolman patio

New MegaBytes Bag It! Station

Blocks

- » Use your blocks at the expanded Bag It! Station at Megabytes
Monday-Friday, 7AM-5PM

Dinner at Levering

Blocks

- » Wow. Dinner at Levering? Blocks accepted for special dinner combos only
at Levering, Sunday-Friday, 5-8PM, Regular lunch service will continue.

Kosher*

Blocks • Points • JCash • Cash

- » Use your regular weekday lunch and dinner Kosher program blocks
at the Smokler Center for Jewish Life
- » Expanded lunch and dinner block-swipe Kosher options at both
Bag It! locations; Kosher grab and go always available at Levering,
Depot and MegaBytes

**Shabbat and Holiday Kosher Program remains at the Smokler Center*

Johns Hopkins University Dining Services
Wolman 101 - 410.516.7961 - www.jhu.edu/hds



ORIENTATION 2006 INVITATION

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY



THE JOHNS HOPKINS ORIENTATION PROGRAM IS INVITING YOU
TO BE A PART OF THE 2006 PROGRAM. TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME THE
CLASS OF 2010 .

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ORIENTATION STAFF APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 14, 2005
WWW.ORIENTATION.JHU.EDU/LEVERING HALL 102

ORIENTATION INTEREST SESSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2005 – 12-1PM
LEVERING HALL CONFERENCE ROOM A

CLASS OF 2010 ARRIVES
SEPTEMBER 1 & 2, 2006

Student Boosters Club Presents ...

"NAME THE BLUE JAY"

CONTEST



Grand Prize:
Free books - Fall
2006 Semester**

Runners Up:
\$50 in Blue Jay Bucks

** Graduating Seniors will
win \$500 in Blue Jay Bucks

CONTEST INFORMATION:

Fill out the form below and either mail it to the Department of Athletics or look for drop boxes located at all home basketball games, the recreation center front desk, the JHU Book Center check-out line, and the Terrace and Wolman Dining Halls. The nomination form deadline is Monday, Feb. 13th.

The final five names will be picked Feb. 15th and campus-wide voting will take place Feb. 16-26th at www.hopkinssports.com to decide the winner. The name of the Blue Jay mascot will be announced at halftime of the men's lacrosse game vs. Princeton, scheduled for March 4th at 2 pm.

"NAME THE BLUE JAY" CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Please PRINT and return in
drop boxes or mail to:
"Name the Blue Jay"
Department of Athletics
Johns Hopkins University
3400 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Name _____

Major _____

Class Year _____

Local Address _____

Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Suggested Mascot Name _____

Prizes provided by:

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY
BOOK CENTER



QUESTIONS? CONTACT KRISTIN WOOD, JOHNS
HOPKINS GAME OPERATIONS COORDINATOR, AT
(410) 516-5150 OR WOODK@JHU.EDU.

CALENDAR



Sophomores Raffi Wartanian and Mitch Frank play Gary and Toby, college buddies whose personalities become very different.

COURTESY OF ERIC JABART

Witness Theater presents "Whitehill"

Witness Theater, the only 100-per-cent student-written theater group on campus, will present their Intersession production of *Whitehill* this Thursday, Feb. 2. Each Intersession, the members of Witness Theater produce a full-length play to be performed on the first weekend of spring semester.

"The plays we put together are entirely dependent on the talent of the student body," *Whitehill* producer Chris Hamel said. "This means that our shows vary greatly in concept, theme and genre."

Whitehill is the fourth intersession production. The play was written by Ben Kingsland, a senior Writing Seminars major, who is also a singer for the Mental Notes and a Barnstormer. Eric Jabart, a graduate student, will be directing. His experience with Witness runs back to his starring role in *The Blue Cranberry Hour*, which was the first-ever Wit-

ness Intersession show.

According to Hamel, "the play is at times a stark reflection on suburban life and at others a quirky meditation on a state of nature." *Whitehill* is a comedy that follows the course of two main characters: Gary, a straight-laced everyman, and Toby, his rebellious college counterpart.

As schoolmates, the two created an anarchist society at their university and did whatever they could to get under the authority's skin. Upon graduation, both went their separate ways. Gary, played by sophomore Raffi Wartanian, gets married, takes on a nine-to-five job and tries to raise daughter Mimi, played by freshman Christen Cromwell, as best he can.

Sophomore Mitch Frank plays Toby, whose rebel mentality, unlike Gary, has only grown since college. Toby holds the belief that a man is either in

society or not, there is no compromise. To escape from the conventions of everyday life, Toby takes a random turn while hiking, gets completely lost and meets Bridget who lives her life in the wilderness.

The two characters continue to live their lives under their respective ideologies until a chance encounter when Toby is caught stealing veggies from Gary's garden. Conflict ensues as the two begin to dispute their separate philosophies.

Director Jabart adds, "There's something about a goose and a skateboard. If that doesn't get people to come, I don't know what will." *Whitehill* will be shown Thursday to Saturday at 8 p.m. and a final time on Sunday at 2 p.m. The price of admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for the general public. For more information contact chamel3@jhu.edu.

—Stephanie Yu

Miscellaneous Events

Thursday, Feb. 2

12 p.m. The **Matin Art Munch** will host "Are You Not Ashamed to Tell So Many Lies? Just What IS Fiction?" a presentation and discussion group that examines various topics in the arts. Writing Seminars Professors Jean McGarry, Stephen Dixon and Tristan Davies will hold the event in the Matin SDS Room. The Art Munch will discuss the utilization of memory in current fiction. This is a free event. Bring your own lunch. Refreshments will be provided. For more information call (410) 516-3817.

7 p.m. Former congressman and NAACP National President **Kweisi Mfume** will speak at Hodson Hall in celebration of Black History month. For more information visit <http://www.jhu.edu/bsu/BlackHistory/MonthWeb/blhm.html>.

8 p.m. Witness Theater's "**Whitehill**" starring Raffi Wartanian and Mitch Frank will debut at the Swirnow Theater. Tickets are \$3 for students.

Friday, Feb. 3

5 p.m. The **National Aquarium in Baltimore** offers a discounted admission of \$5 every Friday after 5 p.m. The discounted admission is a great deal, so don't pass it up! Even if you have been to the aquarium before, head down to check out the new dolphin show. For more information, including hours of operation, group discounts and directions, call (410) 567-3845.

7 p.m. Friday Night Films presents **Mask**, a movie about a boy with a severe deformity over-

coming the challenges in his life. The movie stars Cher and Sam Elliott. This free event will be held at Hodson Auditorium.

8 p.m. The **Maryland Space Grant Observatory** located in Bloomberg offers you a free chance to look at the solar system with its telescopes, weather permitting. Call (410) 516-6525 for weather updates and observing conditions before you hike up to Bloomberg.

8 p.m. Witness Theater's "**Whitehill**" will be shown at the Swirnow Theater. Tickets are \$3 for students.

10 p.m. **Coffee Grounds** takes place every Friday night in the Mattin Center Silk Road Cafe. Come out for the free Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee, and stay for the fun evening activity.

Saturday, Feb. 4

8 p.m. Witness Theater's "**Whitehill**" will be shown at the Swirnow Theater. Tickets are \$3 for students.

Sunday, Feb. 5

2 p.m. A final performance of Witness Theater's "**Whitehill**." Tickets are \$3 for students.

Monday, Feb. 6

5 p.m. Stressbusters presents **Mellow Out Mondays**. Members of Stressbusters will be giving free five minute back rubs at Silk Road Café.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

Award-winning author **Bebe Moore Campbell** will hold a book discussion for her lat-

est book, "The 72 Hour Hold" in Arellano Theater. For questions regarding this event email BHM06@jhu.edu or visit <http://www.jhu.edu/bsu/BlackHistory-MonthWeb/blhm.html>.

1 p.m. Dr. Don Batsky, Associate Director of Admissions at Ohio State, will be available to answer questions on the **Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health** at the Great Hall in Levering. This is a free event. For more information call (410) 516-6744.

5:45 p.m. Habitat for Humanity will present **Poverty, Youth and Unstable Homes in Baltimore**, a panel featuring Professor Freya Sonenstein, Marisa Canino, Deputy Director of Chesapeake Habitat, and Layne Humphrey, the Director of Community Relations and Communication for the Center. This free event will be held at Maryland 110.

6:30 p.m. **Free Massages** will be given at the HopStop. For more information call Savithri Raja at (410) 516-8209 or e-mail her at savithri@jhu.edu.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

12:30 p.m. **Stuff Your Own Bear or Animal** at the Hop Stop. Pick up a coupon to stuff your animal, this free event is first come first serve. For more information call Savithri Raja at (410) 516-8209 or email savithri@jhu.edu.

Thursday, Feb. 9

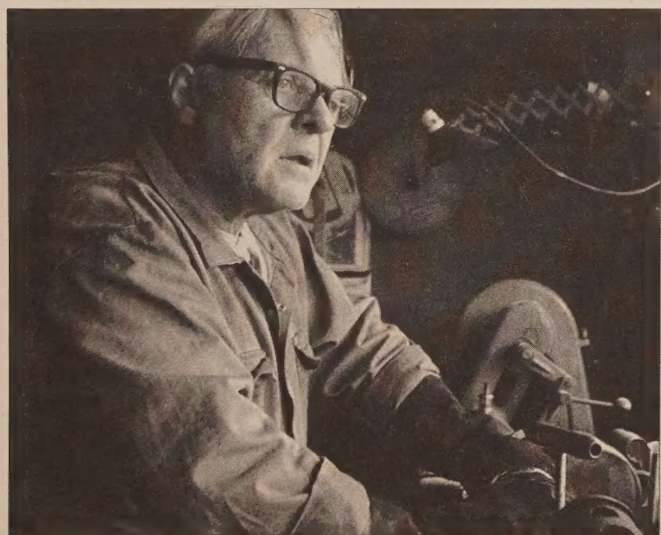
10 p.m. The **Senior's Last Semester Kick-Off** will be held at the Hop Stop. Free food and free alt beverages will be provided along with pool, air hockey, video games and more. Bring cash to purchase drinks.

—compiled by Stephanie Yu

MOVIE OPENING

The World's Fastest Indian

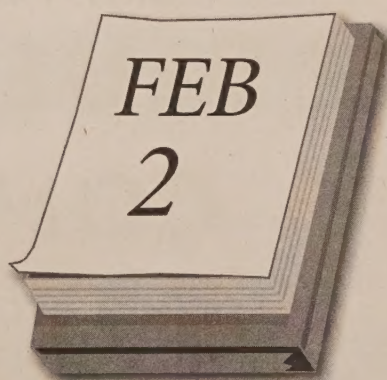
Movie debuting at the Rotunda Theater this Friday, February 3



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ROTTENTOMATOES.COM](http://www.rottentomatoes.com)

Anthony Hopkins stars in "The World's Fastest Indian" as Burt Munro, a motorcycle enthusiast from New Zealand who sets out to break the land-speed record in 1967.

Calendar



Feb. 2 to 9

Talking Head comedy night

Some people like to say that stand-up comedy is the perfect glimpse of modern society's deepest, darkest secrets found in its neglected individuals who deliver it in an uncensored, anecdotal form. No one really knows how many of us have had our parents lock us in the basement for days, or have pondered whether or not a contact lens will interfere with the shooting of heroin in the eye, but thankfully, some brave souls are here to bare all the embarrassing substance none of us are willing to share.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, the Talking Head will present "A Night of Comedy," featuring acts such as Chris Havel, Frank Hong, Doug Powell and Davey G. accompanied by his keyboard. Be prepared to weep as Havel tells the heart breaking story of the friendship he established with a dead rodent while being "justifiably

disciplined" in his basement. Sing along with the duet of Davey G. and his keyboard, known only as "Kawai X20," as they serenade the audience with such meaningful hits as *I Love Crack*. Most importantly, however, get ready to laugh at Frank Hong as he pours out the trauma he has been through from his childhood in an Asian family. The average Hopkins student is sure to turn his or her potential feelings of empathy for Hong into degrading laughter.

There will be many more entertaining acts, and this is an event not to be missed by any Hopkins student, be he an aspiring stand-up comedian or someone who wants a good laugh. Tickets cost \$5. Doors open at 9 p.m. For more information on this event, visit <http://www.talkinghead-club.com>.

—Pavan Dalal

Visual Arts

Walters Art Museum

The Walters Art Museum will be hosting **Art from India, Nepal and Tibet: The John and Berthe Ford Collection**. The exhibit will feature various art forms, including religious cloth paintings, stone and clay sculptures and a diverse array of Muslim and Buddhist art.

The exhibit will be open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (410) 547-9000 or visit the Web site at <http://www.thewalters.org>.

Sacred Arts and City Life: The Glory of Medieval Novgorod is a collection of sculptures, textiles and artifacts from Veliky Novgorod, Russia's oldest medieval city. This will be displayed at the Walters Art Museum on 600 N. Charles St. Trace the rise and fall of the city first hand by examining the icons of the age. The exhibition is orga-

nized in collaboration with the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg and the Novgorod Museum Foundation.

The venue hours are Wednesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$6 for college students with ID. For more information call (410) 547-9000.

The Walters Art Museum will host an exhibit entitled **Art of Ancient Americas**, featuring works from the Mayan, Aztec and Incans cultures, ceramic figures and ritualistic sculptures from over 4,000 years ago will be on display. The exhibit is open daily.

Baltimore Museum of Art

The Woodlawn Vase, the award presented annually to the winner of the Preakness States, will be on display at the Baltimore Museum of Art as part of its collection of equestrian art and horse racing trophies. The 34-inch vase is a Tiffany's creation, crafted from sterling silver. The vase is a part of the William Woodward Collection which

also includes 52 horse racing paintings.

Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Wednesday to Friday and Saturday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call (410) 396-7100.

Picasso: The Final Years will be presented at the BMA. The exhibition will feature Picasso's works from 1945 to 1968. Admission is free for students. Museum hours are Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

American Visionary Art Museum

Race, Class, Gender CHARACTER will be exhibited at the American Visionary Art Museum at 800 Key Hwy. The exhibit aims to address the issue of character as something autonomous from the factors of race, class and gender. The "Human Race Machine" by Nancy Burson allows users to be transformed into any of six different

races. Tickets range from \$7 to \$11. For more information contact (410) 244-1900.

Downtown

Project Picture Window is an exhibition of site work featuring more than 100 artists who will each design a single square-shaped panel to be placed on a boarded window of an abandoned rowhouse, scattered around the city. The opening ceremony will take place on Feb. 12 as part of the Entertainment District's annual "Gotta Have Art" celebration starting at 3 p.m. at 405 E. Oliver St.

Some of the paintings already installed include an image by Paula Phillips of a dark-skinned angel set against sky blue with the word "Peace" written in the foreground. It can be found at 1707 Barclay Ave. Other participating artists include Michael DeFeo, Geoff Grace, Paul Nudd and Nicholas Wisniewski. For more information go to <http://www.promotionandarts.com>.

—compiled by Stephanie Yu



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.THEWALTERS.ORG](http://www.thewalters.org)

This painting of the Saints Barlaam of Khutyn, John the Merciful, Paraskeve and Anastasia with the Virgin of the Sign will be exhibited at the Walters with other medieval pieces.

CALENDAR

Stoop Storytelling Series comes to Baltimore

Storytelling is an age-old tradition. From prehistory to modern day, stories have shaped a major part of society. Before the printing press, stories were kept alive by word of mouth. In medieval times, minstrels traveled from kingdom to kingdom, weaving tales of valiant knights and their harrowing adventures. Now, the Stoop Storytelling Series is bringing back the tradition of good old yarn-weaving to Baltimore.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, The Creative Alliance at the Patterson will present an evening of "blood, tears, mishaps, screw-ups and shattered dreams" as seven storytellers spend seven minutes each telling a series of stories that form the collection "Legends of the Fall: Stories about Failure."

This event marks the premier of the Stoop Storytelling Series. Founders Laura Wexler and Jessica Henkin will host a lineup that includes crime novelist Laura Lippman, WJZ-TV morning host Marty Bass, Walters Art Museum director Gary Vikan and *Baltimore* magazine senior editor Max Weiss. "It's going to be an exciting, unpredictable evening," Wexler said. "I mean, seven storytellers talking truthfully — not to mention movingly and hilariously — about their failures? Anything's possible. This is not your grandmother's story hour."



Crime novelist Laura Lippman will debut a storytelling collection, "Legends of the Fall: Stories About Failure," Thursday at the Patterson.

The Stoop's concept is based on successful storytelling series in San Francisco and New York City entitled Porchlight and The Moth, respectively. Recognizing human nature's yearning for "exposure to other people's lives through intimate, unmediated forms," as The Stoop Creators put it, a show was created by choosing a theme and inviting story-tellers to portray their own relevant personal anecdotes. The show promises to

be an eclectic mix of true tales presented in a combination of improve and crafted narrative. Additionally, the show promises the chance for three audience members to get onstage and tell their own three-minute impromptu stories relevant to the evening's theme.

A second show, "Under One Roof: Stories About Living Together (Or Trying to)," is scheduled for April 20. Wexler and Henkin plan to do a show every

other month each time with a different theme and a different roster of storytellers.

For more information, check out <http://www.stoopstorytelling.com>. The Feb. 9 show will begin at 8 p.m. The Creative Alliance is located at 3134 Eastern Ave. and can be reached at <http://www.creativealliance.org>. Tickets are \$10 each, \$8 for members.

—Anusha Gopalratnam

Concert Listings

Thursday, Feb. 2

7 p.m. **Parts and Labor** of the Jagjaguwar record label will assemble at the Charm City Art Space. They will be joined by Matt & Kim, Materials and Videohippos. For more information go to <http://www.ccspace.org>.

7 p.m. The **Kelly Bell Band** invade Recher Theatre with Clone and Hudson & Prout. For more information visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

8 p.m. The **Ethnic Heritage Ensemble** will perform at An die Musik. For more information go to <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

9 p.m. **Early Man**, Priestess and The Sword will be at the Ottobar. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Friday, Feb. 3

8 p.m. **J. Roddy Walston and the Business** set up shop at Sonar. Red Diamond supports. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

8 p.m. **Melford and Jenkins** will give a performance at An die Musik. For more information go to <http://www.andiemusik.com>.

9 p.m. Get addicted to the **Heroin Sheiks** at the Ottobar. Clockcleaner and Pygmy Lush will support. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9 p.m. **Headstraight**, Paperback Tragedy and the Ripovs make their way to the Mojo Room. For more information go to <http://www.mojobalto.com>.

9:30 p.m. The **Park Police** make their rounds at the Talking Head with Avec, Pale Stars and Your Black Star. For more information visit <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

Saturday, Feb. 4

8 p.m. The **Wire Orchestra** untangle themselves at the Mojo Room with the Expanding Man, Dave Grollman & Rob Price and Bender. For more information go to <http://www.mojobalto.com>.



Indie-pop band Nada Surf prepares to catch a wave into the 8 X 10 Night Club on Feb. 8, with support from fellow rockers Rogue Wave.

8:30 p.m. The Red Room Collective presents **Philly Night**, an evening of talent from the heart of the City of Brotherly Love. Performers include Evan Lipson, Dave Smolen and Helena Espvall-Santoleri. For more information go to <http://www.redroom.org>.

9 p.m. **RJD2** invades the 9:30 Club. For more information go to <http://www.930.com>.

9 p.m. **E Joseph**, Seldon Plan, The Quiet and Tim Kaye pay a visit to the Ottobar. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9:30 p.m. The **Fishnet Stalkers** creep their way into the Talking Head with the Sleazies, Red Invasion, the Frantic and the Tombs. For more information visit <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

Sunday, Feb. 5

4 p.m. **Sevendust** will perform at 98Rock's Super Bowl Bash at Rams Head Live. This event is for all ages. For more information visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

4 p.m. Recher Theatre presents a **Super Bowl Party**. The game will be shown on a 16' by 12' television screen. Admission is free. For more information go to <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

5 p.m. Sonar will host a Sonar **Super Bowl Party** in the lounge area of the club. The game will be projected on a large viewing screen. Drinks will be available to buy. Party-goers are encour-

aged to bring their own snacks. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

Monday, Feb. 6

8 p.m. More than just a synthetic fabric, **Polyester** make their way onto the club stage of Sonar. The Frauds, Quarry and Extra Blue Kind will also perform. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

9 p.m. **Girls on Film** and Kar-

mella's Game will prepare to play at the Sidebar. For more information go to <http://www.sidebar Tavern.com>.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

6:30 p.m. **The Spill Canvas** make a mess all over the Ottobar with Nightmare of You, As Tall as Lions and Hit the Lights contributing. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

6:30 p.m. **Ion Dissonance**

charge up Sonar with the help of August Burns Red, Carol, the Lake and It Must Occur. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

7:30 p.m. **Nicholas Maw** will visit An die Musik and deliver a night of music. For more information go to <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

9:30 p.m. **Engineer** designs new bridges and buildings at the Talking Head with the help of Roma Delenda Est. For more information go to <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

7 p.m. **Nada Surf** wash up at the 8x10 Club with the **Rogue Wave** trailing in their wake. For more information go to <http://www.the8by10.com>.

8 p.m. **Cult Classics** attracts a following at the Ottobar. Random Hero, Ramrod, the Reper-

cussions and Mr. Difficult will join in the festivities. For more information go to <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Thursday, Feb. 9

6 p.m. Sonar will host the **School of Rock All-Stars featuring Adrian Belew**. For more information go to <http://www.sonarbaltimore.com>.

9 p.m. **The Love Drunks** stumble (lovingly) into the Side Bar along with their buddies Vincent's Black Shadow and Thee Lexington Arrows. For more information go to <http://www.sidebar Tavern.com>.

Got an Event?

Send details about future events, including date, time, location, a brief summary of the event to events@jhunewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events the Monday before publication.

NIGHTLIFE

Clubs

9:30 Club, 815 V St., NW, Washington, D.C., (202) 393-0930
Baja Beach Club, 55 Market Pl., (410) 727-0468
Bohagers, 701S. Eden St., (410) 563-7220
Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. (202) 667-7960
Brass Monkey, 1601 Eastern Ave., (410) 522-0784
Buddies Pub and Jazz Club, 313 N. Charles St., (410) 332-4200
Cat's Eye Pub, 1730 Thames St., (410) 276-9085
Club 2314, 2314 Boston St., (410) 276-9556
DeGroen's Grill, 104 Albemarle St., (410) 837-5000
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., (410) 558-1889
Hal Daddy's, 4119 E. Lombard St., (410) 342-3239
Harry's, 1200 N. Charles St., (410) 685-2828
Hammerjacks, 316 Guilford Ave., (410) 234-0044
Horse You Came In On, 1626 Thames St., (410) 327-8111
Iguana Cantina, 124 Market Place, (410) 244-0200
Latm Palace, 509 S. Broadway, (410) 522-6700
Lava Lounge, Pier Four, (410) 539-7888
Ottobar, 2549 N. Howard St., (410) 662-0069
Recher Theatre, 512 York Rd., Towson, (410) 337-7178
Redwood Trust, 200 E. Redwood St., (410) 669-9500
Sonar, 407 E. Saratoga St., (410) 327-8333
The Talking Head, 203 E. Davis St., (410) 962-5588
The Vault, 401 W. Baltimore St., (410) 244-6000
Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames St., (410) 327-4886
Wyatt's, 1614 Eastern Ave., (410) 732-8656

Comedy

Comedy Factory, 36 Light St., (410) 752-4189
The Improv, 6 Market Pl. at Power Plant Live, (410) 727-8500
Tracy's Comedy Shop, 9306 Harford Rd., (410) 665-8600

Coffee

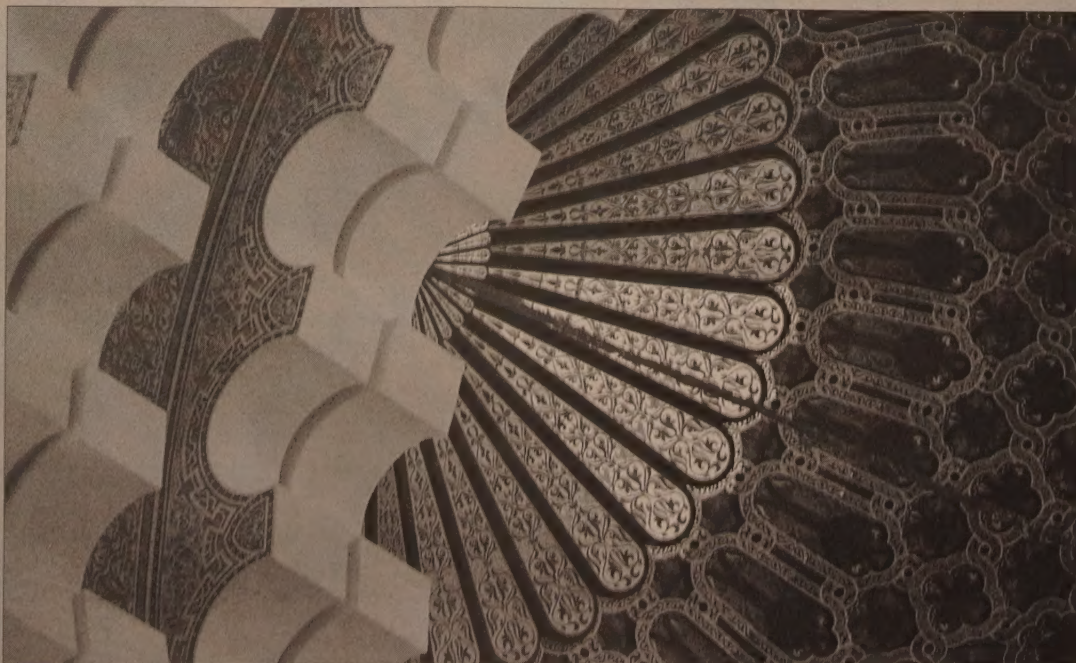
Borders Bookstore and Music, 415 York Rd., (410) 296-0791
Café Tattoo, 4825 Belair Rd., (410) 325-7427
Carma's Café, 3120 St. Paul St., (410) 243-5200
Donna's, 3101 St. Paul St., (410) 889-3410
Fell's Point Café, 723 S. Broadway, (410) 327-8800
Funk's Democratic Coffee, 1818 Eastern Ave., (410) 276-3865
HopStop, Levering Hall, JHU, (410) 516-6219
Images Café, 3120 St. Paul St., (410) 235-3054
Margaret's Café, 909 Fell St., (410) 276-5606
One World Café, 100 W. University Parkway, (410) 235-5777
Red Emma's, 800 St. Paul St.
Sweet Retreat, 3215 N. Charles St.
Xandos, 3003 N. Charles St., (410) 889-7076
Ze Mean Bean Café, 1739 Fleet St., (410) 675-5999

Movie Theatres

AMC Towson Commons 8, 435 York Rd., (410) 825-5233
Charles Theatre, 1711 N. Charles St., (410) 727-FILM
Rotunda Cinematheque, 711 W. 40th St., (410) 235-4800
Senator Theatre, 5904 York Rd., (410) 435-8338

Exposure

By Mark Mehlinger



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